

Britannia Languens :
OR, A
DISCOURSE
OF
TRADE,
SHEWING,

That the present Management of Trade in
England, is the true Reason of the Decay of
our Manufactures, and the late great Fall of
Land-Rents; and that the increase of Trade,
in the Method it now stands in, must pro-
portionably Decay *England*.

Wherein is particularly demonstrated,
That the *East-India* Company, as now Mana-
ged, has already near destroyed our Trade
in those Parts, as well as that with *Turkey*,
and in short time must necessarily beggar
the Nation.

Humbly offered to the Consideration of
this Present PARLIAMENT.

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Mem.

Sheet I, pp. 273-288, does not
belong to this work, but to "The
History of the damnable English
Plot" of 1680.

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TO THE
READER.

I*t is a Truth beyond all Dispute and Controversie, sad Experience having too evidently made out the Proof and Certainty of it, that the Trade of England for many Tears last past, hath been so impolitickly and ill manag'd for the Nations Good and Benefit, that it hath been the true Cause of the fall of the value of Lands, the decay of Farmers, and Graziers, and almost the utter ruin and destruction of the choicest and best Manufactories of this Kingdom; and the more the Trade of the Nation shall be enlarged in the Methods we now Traffick in, the more mischievous and ruinous it must prove to the Nation; and unless some speedy Care be taken by wise and prudent Laws, to prevent this growing Destruction upon us, we shall most insensibly fall to the greatest Penury and Want perhaps of any Nation in Europe; tho' this Kingdom otherways by its Scituation, and the fruitfulness of its Soil, and by its brave Harbours for Shipping, the choicest and cheapest Materials for the stanchest Manufactories that are used throughout*

To the READER.

out Europe; This Kingdom might be improv'd not only to doubling the value of Lands, but by advancing our Manufactory so, as to command the Trade of the Known World; and the Design of the ingenious Author of this Book is, to demonstrate the above Assertions, by shewing most unanswerably the fatal Mischief that attends this Nation, by the Methods of Trade, that it is at present engag'd in, and giving also the true Notions of Trade, as to Interest and Advantage of their Majesties, and all their Subjects, and that with so much Demonstration and Clearness, that the Author would not have probably toiled in so ingenious Inquiries, but that he believed, could he intelligibly make out the Truths above, whenever the great Assembly of Parliament should meet, they would take it into their Wise Consideration. Themselves, as well as the whole Kingdom, being concerned in the Affairs and Interest hereof.

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THE Introduction.

IT hath been the Common Design and Business of Individual Men in England, as elsewhere, to obtain sufficient Revenues in Money to the end they may secure themselves from Necessities and Shifting, and live plentifully; And yet it may be undeniably and uncomfortably observed, That whilst every one hath eagerly pursued his private Interest, a kind of Common Consumption hath crawled upon us; Since our Land-Rents are generally much fallen, and our Home-Commodities sunk from their late Price and Value; Our Poor are vastly increased, and the rest of our People generally more and more feel the Want of Money; This Disease having grown upon us in times of Peace, when no Forreigners have Exhausted us by War-like
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Depredations, may very justly amuse us; and the more, when at the same time, we observe that some of our Neighbour-Nations; lately our Equals, or much our Inferiors, are become so prodigiously Rich and Powerful on a sudden, (I mean the French and Dutch:) Certainly these mighty Productions must have some great and vigorous Causes, which have been very furiously working of later years, and such as have not fallen under common Observation: The Nations and Races of People are the same, and the Countries of England, France and Holland, stand where they did, they are not removed an Inch; nor do the English seem to have lost their Understandings; they are as cunning in their private Contracts as ever, and appear nothing inferior to the French and Dutch in most parts of Literature; I question not but that they know all the Ancient Languages and Histories as well, that our Academicks are as subtle in all the Criticisms of Aristotle, that they have travelled as far into the most abstruse parts of his Logick, Physicks and Metaphysicks; and yet have we still grown poorer and poorer; So have we excelled in divers necessary parts of Learning; We have had as Able, Eloquent and Eminent Lawyers and Clergy-men as ever, and as Notable Physicians, and the Nation seems to have grown more Learned, and therefore Wiser than before, by the late vast increase of these Ranks of men.

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The present Disadvantages we are under, are therefore commonly attributed to. Accidents of divers kinds; as mens present particular Fancies dictate, in which the greatest part are contented to rest satisfied without farther enquiry, whilst they have some Prospects of Gain in the Employments they are severally Educated to; Some ascribe the fall of Rents to an over-great increase of Corn, by the ploughing up of Parks; Others to the modern Parsimony in House-keeping, the lessening of Gentlemens Retinues, and leaving off the old laudable Custom of plentiful Suppers, which they suppose occasions a less Consumption of Victuals; others attribute this, and the want of Money in the Country, to the great resort of People to London, and quarrel at the New Buildings, as the Hires and Receipts which draw them thither; others to the banking up of Treasures in the Coffers of some unknown Grandees, Church-men, Lawyers or Citizens, of which they are highly confident, for else, they say, what is become of the money? then for the late Progress and Trophies of the French, many look upon them as the meer effects of the Despotick or Arbitrary Power of that Monarchy, or of the personal cunning of some men now living in France; I remember I heard one Gentleman say, that the French Genius was up, wherewith he gave himself and others good satisfaction: Others will have it, that the late

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Enemies

Enemies of the French wanted Valor and Conduct, but that if the French had the English to contend with, their Glory would soon be laid in the Dust: For the Dutch, there are those who will argue their Riches and Populacy to proceed from the peculiar Industry of that Nation, and that such an Eternal Toil is not supportable by any other; Others, to their small Expence in Diet and Habit, others to particular Circumstances in the time and manner of their Defection from Spain; to their Register of Titles and Contracts, and their cheap and easie decision of Law-Suits.

Of all other things we seem to be most secure in the matter of Trade; we have many who taking themselves to be born or intitled to so much a year in Land, do consider Trade as no otherwise necessary in a Nation, than to support younger Brothers, and are ready to thrust all Publique Taxes upon Trade, that they may ease the Land; Others who pretend to enquire into it, hear the Customs are much risen of late years, and then rest satisfied that we have a mightier Trade than ever: We have also some Merchants and Shopkeepers who get Estates, and buy Land on a fuddain, which is lookt upon as an Argument of a good Trade; We find their mighty and numerous Shops and Warehouses, full of goods, and do not hear them complain of Trade; Or that Land is brought to 14 or 16 years

years purchase, or that they buy at a much abated yearly value.

Some, indeed, justly apprehending a Disease in our Trade, by the decay of our Home Manufactures, and an excess of Foreign Importations, have judiciously expressed themselves in it; these Nations whilst in Embrio, have been rallied by our Modern Drolls, in their new Manufacture of Plays.

There are others, who with more Design and Gravity, tell us, That the Notions of Improvements of Trade, are of a dangerous tendency, because they threaten part of the present Jurisdiction of our Spiritual Courts, and the gain of many Offices, by some requisite Toleration of Conscience, and other mitigations relating to Trade, and upon this Occasion the same Objectors proceed to argue the Improvements of Trade to be of as bad Consequence to the State, by filling the Nation with Trading-Religious Dissenters, or by a necessary moderating of the present Custom-Rates: They also insinuate, that we ought not to look for such a perfection of Trade under a Monarchical Government, but to dispose of our selves otherwise as we can; We have others that say, Trade is a misterious thing, and not intelligible in any part of it, without a long Apprentiship, and therefore wholly refer themselves to the Merchants and private Traders; Others that 'tis Mechanical, and not Gentlemanlike.

But if it fall out that these are all mistaken Opinions, if Trade alone hath produced the afore-mentioned Effects in England, France and Holland, If the rise and fall of Rents absolutely depend upon it; If Liberty and Property be made valuable by Trade only, and are not valuable or safe without it; If a Nation may be made strong or weak by the meer different Operations of Trade; If the Taxing or burthening of Trade must reduce all Land-Revenues, if the easing of Trade either in the particular Custom-Rates, or otherwise, will make the whole Revenue of the Customs greater, or else much enhance all other publick as well as private Revenues; If a mighty Trade be consistent with a Monarchical Government? (where there is Property and Liberty:). If it be a false and officious Scandal to this form of Government, to affirm the contrary; if England of all other Nations, be naturally most capable of the Advantages of Trade, but yet the Trade of England of late years hath been Consumptive; If the late Policies of our Neighbour-Nations have rendered our old established Methods of Trade insufficient; If we have divers late innovated Obstructions in our Trade, if this hath caused an over-balance of Forreign Importations, If our National Industry hath been employed to enrich Forreigners, if our own Treasures have been exhausted by our own Trade, and will soon be swept away in the

the present course of it, Nay, even notwithstanding our late Prohibition of French Goods, if the Objections against the enlarging and bettering of our Trade, arise from private Interests, in contradiction to the Publick, or from Passion or Humour, and if this be intelligible to every man of sense, that will take the pains to enquire into it. Then certainly it must follow,

That it does much import all English Gentlemen, Owners of Land, and others, who take themselves to be sharers in the National Interest to examine the past and present State of our Trade, and to seek for a legal Regulation of it; And that all private Interests destructive to our Trade ought to be relaxed, and given up for the future.

Private Interest is that many headed Monster, I chiefly to encounter with, in which if any particular person shall take himself to be concerned, I shall desire him to consider, whether his own Condition would not be more truly honourable and safe under more open Methods of Trade? I shall pray him to look into the nature of meer private Interest, which if he do, he must confess it the same Principle that leads men into Cheats, Thefts, and all those other base, mercyleless and execrable Villanies, which render the Actors Criminals, and odious by the Sufferings and Injuries they bring upon others.

Then if any mans particular way of Gain be so prejudicial to Trade, as to occasion the continual Beggery of Thousands of his Countrymen, is not this more then equally mischievous to so many thousand Thefts? But what if this Beggery must unavoidably cause many thousand actual Thefts, nay Murders and Enormities of all kinds, and as it grows more Universal, must bring the Nation into an impotent and indefensible weakness? Have we any amongst us that will be yet tenacious of such ways of Gain? Will they tell us that they are not punishable by any Laws in force? 'tis pity they are not. So there was a time when in Old Rome, there was no direct Law against Parricide: But that they may no longer shelter themselves under this Umbrage, it were highly necessary that Laws were made to control them, and to remove all Obstructions in our Trade.

That Trade is of this National Importance and Influence, and that the Trade of England in particular, hath been and continues under these Disadvantages, will, I think, sufficiently appear to any indifferent Reader, by the following Discourse; Of which having given the Reader a taste, by way of Introduction, I shall proceed to what I have undertaken, and shall begin with some Preliminaries,

ries, of which part are self-evident, and for those that are not (being not able to say all at once) refer the Reader to the following Sections.

SECT.

SECT. I.

Trade National or Private, Home or Forreign Treasures Imported by Trade, thence Land-Rents, Popularly increased, the Revenues of all Ranks of men depend upon Trade, People and Treasure make National Strength, particular Advantages in Treasure, the difference between Ancient and Modern Wars, Navigation supported by Trade, this necessary for the Security of an Island, and therein the farther scope of the whole.

Trade is either *National or Private*:
The *National Trade* doth influence the Wealth and Strength of a *whole Nation*, and therefore is not the only Concern of *Merchants*.

Private Trade hath regard to the particular Wealth of the Trader, and doth so far differ
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in the scope and design of it from the *National*, that a private Trade may be very beneficial to the private Trader, but of hurtful, nay of very ruinous Consequence to the whole Nation; as will appear.

I shall speak of *National Trade*, which is properly divided into *Home Trade*, and *Forreign Trade*.

The *Home Trade* in every Nation hath dependance on the *Forreign Trade*, if a Nation hath no Gold or Silver-Mines within its own Territory, there is no practicable way of bringing *Treasure* into it (in times of Peace) but by *Forreign Trade*: And if such a Nation be not enriched by Imported Treasure, its *Home Trade* can only be managed by *Exchange of Goods for Goods*.

But if Treasure be Imported, then may its *Home Trade* be managed by buying and selling for *money*.

And from hence may the *Lands* in such a Nation come to yield a *money Rent*, which is the produce or profits of Land sold for *money*.

In which Case the *price of Home Commodities*, and consequently the yearly *Rent of Lands* in a Nation which hath *populacy* and *property*, will hold proportion with the quantity of the *National Treasure*; and will rise or fall as the *Treasure* does increase or diminish.

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For where there is an increase of *Treasure* in a Nation which hath *property*, this will ordinarily diffuse amongst the people by the necessity and succession of *Contracts*; and then the people having universally more money than before, the *Seller* will not be so *necessitous* for money as before, and will have a greater choice of *Chapmen*, who will be more able and ready to buy.

These numbers of *Chapmen* will inevitably raise the Market one upon the other; as is demonstrable by common and undeniable Experience and Fact; And therefore I shall lay it as a ground in Commerce, That the *plenty of Chapmen*, who have *plenty of money*, will cause a higher and quicker Market for any desirable Commodity, especially if the *seller* be not so *necessitous* for money as to be forced to *snag* at the first offer.

And that on the other side, where there be fewer *Chapmen*, who have less money, and the *Sellers* themselves are more necessitous, they must and will sell lower; This must inevitably happen in a Nation where there is little money.

For instance, If there were but 500 *l.* Sterling in *England*, an Ox could hardly be worth a penny, nor could the Revenue of all *England* be 500 *l. per annum*, or not above;

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It follows then, that a *Forreign Trade* (by increasing the *National Treasure*) will advance *home Markets*, and the value of *Lands* in *England*.

I shall admit that if a Nation can be *Victorious in War*, and can plunder the *Conquered*, some *Treasures* may happen to be Imported this way; But certainly those who consider it, will rather desire to be enriched by Trade than by War, since in the Course of Trade, far mightier *Treasures* may be gotten with *Peace, Innocence, Security, and Happiness to the People*, who cannot be *Victorious in War* without *Bloodsheds, Rapines, Violences, and Perpetrations* of all kinds; they also must be subject to perpetual difficulties and hazards in the hardships and event of War, which will disturb or subvert the *Home Trade*, nor can the *Treasure* of a People so employed circulate in the *Markets* to any advantageous degree; or should we have any such *Bravoes* or *Knights Errant* as would rather purchase *Wealth* by Fighting than by Industry, yet are these imaginary Conquests absolutely impracticable at this day without the assistance of *Forreign Trade*; as will be shewn.

But first upon the former grounds I shall add, that a *Forreign Trade* (if managed to the best advantage) will yet further advance the values of *Lands*, by necessitating a vast
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increase of people, since it must maintain great multitudes of people in the very business of Trade, which could not otherwise be supported, (as will also further appear): All which having the Rewards of their Labours in their hands, will still enlarge the choice of Chapmen to the Sellers, and there being so many more persons to be fed and clothed, there must be a far greater home Consumption of all the products of Land.

And hence must arise a kind of Competition amongst the people who shall farm or purchase Land, when the Revenue of Land is certain, and grows higher daily, as the Treasure and People increase, which must cause Land to rise as well in the years purchase, as in the years value; nay, the very Earth must receive an inevitable *Improvement* by their Industrious numbers, whilst every one will be able and willing to possess and manure a greater or lesser part, according to his occasions; there is hardly any Land in *England* but may be improved to double the value, and very much to treble and more.

This necessary Improvement of Rent and Land is verified in the Foreign instance of *Holland*, and in such of our *English* Lands as lie near great and populous *Corporations*; And on the other side, we see that in *Spain* and *Turky*, and also in such parts of *England* and *Ireland*,

Ireland, where there is little Trade, and fewer people, there lie great quantities of Land which yield little or no profit; and hence I conclude, That the Revenue and Value of Land will sympathize with the National Trade.

There are indeed certain Ranks of Men of honourable and necessary Employments and Professions in every Nation, whose Revenues do not so immediately arise from Trade; such are *Officers* greater and less, *Lawyers*, *Physicians*, and such like.

But though these are not placed in the direct Channel of Trade, yet 'tis very plain they derive their Revenues from it; being supported in their Grandure and Gains at the cost of the Land-Holders and Traders; who will be more capable and willing to give them greater Gratuities and Fees, when their own pockets are fuller; and as the People, Trade and Contracts do increase, there will be more Law-Suits and Disputes, and ordinarily more Fees and Gratuities, so will there be more Houses built, more Apparel made, and more Employment of all sorts for *Masons*, *Carpenters*, *Tailors*, and men of all other middle and inferior Callings.

And from hence it also follows, That a Foreign Trade managed to the best advantage, will make a Nation *castly stronger than naturally*

naturally it was, because money and people do ordinarily make National strength.

Money is necessary for the purchasing of many Provisions for War by Land or Sea, as Arms, Victuals, Ammunition, materials for Shipping, and many others, which being gotten, yet neither Souldiers nor Sea-men will now adventure themselves at the mouths of Cannon and Musket without pay, whercof the further Consequence is that the Prince and Nation which hath the greatest Treasure, will finally have the Victory, and probably with little or no fighting.

For being enabled by their Treasure to keep themselves in a posture of War, they will oblige their Enemies to the like Expence, till their Enemies Treasures are exhausted, and then their Armies and also their Councils will disspate.

This shews the difference between the ancient and present Course of War, for anciently the event of War was tried by frequent Battels, and generally succeeded as one Nation was Superior to the other in personal Strength and Roughness; But since the Wealth of the Indies came to be discovered and dispersed more and more, Wars are managed by much Treasure and little Fighting, and therefore with little hazard to the richer Nation.

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And hence also doth it appear that in the present condition of the World, it is in a manner impossible for a Nation to gain Riches by Conquest and Plunder, unless it hath first store of Treasure at Home, which cannot otherwise be gotten than by Foreign Trade.

Also money will command the Service and Lives of any poorer and rougher Nation. It will purchase the Assistance of Foreign Princes, it will indear their great Ministers, open their Cabinets, engage true and close Correspondencies, and poison their Councils: It will pass unseen through Rampiers, Fortifications, and Guards into Cities and Forts, and will surprize them without the tedious hazards of Sieges; It will purchase Governors and Generals, and like Lightning will consume the Heart of a poorer Nation, whilst its Countenance and Outside shall remain fresh.

So are people necessary to Guard the Treasures, and defend the Nation, who will be more or less true and serviceable to the National Interest, as they have a greater or lesser share in it; he that hath somewhat of his own, and lives Comfortably, will stoutly defend the Nation against Invaders; But if a People be poor and miserable, their Condition being uneasy, it will be indifferent to them who is Conqueror; nay they will hope for a better Condition by turning the Tables; so is it of

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dangerous Consequence that the People should become *vitious*, because it generally weakens their Bodies, Courages, or Faiths: In all which the excellency of a great and well regulated Forreign Trade may be discerned, since it will render the People Rich, and ordinarily Virtuous; as will also appear.

But Forreign Trade may bring a particular advantage to an *Island* by a great *Navigation*, without which its impossible for any *Island* long to defend it self against a Forreign Enemy potent in Shipping, for the *Invaders* circling an *Island* with their Ships, may sail from Place to Place, and Rob, Spoil and Kill, before the Natives can, by long Land-Marches, apply their Courage and Land-Forces to resist them; which must necessarily distract and weary out the most valiant People on the Earth: this hath been evident by many Demonstrations in *England*, which hath been often Conquered by Forreigners for want of a sufficient *Naval Force*, particularly by the *Romans*, nay by the *Saxons*, *Danes* and *Normans*; but hath more often repulsed Forreigners, whilst we have been most *powerful at Sea*; and therefore the constant Policies of this Kingdom have long aspired too, and enjoyed a *Soveraignty of the Sea*, and kept a narrow and jealous watch on Neighbour-Nations, lest they should aggrandize their Naval Strengths.

SECT.

SECT. II.

The several kinds of Forreign Trade, of trading with Home or Forreign Navigation, some general Application.

IT will be then proper to consider how a Forreign Trade may be driven to most Advantage for the increase of *National Treasure, People, and Navigation*.

A Forreign Trade may be driven by a Nation with *Forreign Navigation*, or with *Home Navigation*.

A Forreign Trade driven with *Forreign Navigation*, is when a Nation sells its Commodities at Home to such Forreigners as come thither to Buy and Export them.

This sort of Forreign-Trade may enrich a Nation with Treasure more or less, as the Commodities so sold are of greater or lesser quantity and value.

But it is very plain, that if the Natives had Exported the same Commodities to the same Forreigners in *Shipping of their own*, the same Commodities would have yielded a greater Rate in the Forreign Ports, because the Natives must have been also paid for the *Carriage*; which by so much would have increased the

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National Gain; wherefore it is more advantageous for a Nation to Export its own Commodities by Navigation of its own.

But it will not follow; that 'tis therefore necessary or fit to confine all Exportations to Home Navigation by Penal Laws, especially in *England*, as will be shewn.

Nor does it follow that a Nation which doth Export its own Commodities, shall be always richer than another that sells at home; for the Commodities of one Nation sold at home may yield ten times more money at home, than the Commodities exported by the other shall yield abroad, and therefore must make it ten times richer.

This may be verified in the Trade of *France*; whose Commodities sold at home to the *Dutch*, *English*, and others, for many years past, have brought vast quantities of money into *France*, perhaps more than all the Neighbour Nations have gotten by their exported Commodities, by which means, and no other, *France* is become the Terror of the World, as I shall more particularly and fully shew.

A beneficial Foreign Trade, with home Navigation, may be said to be of two sorts:

The one consists in the meer Exportation of home Commodities into Foreign Nations where they may be vended, of which I have spoken before.

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The other, in Trading and Huxtering from Port to Port.

The benefit of Trading or Huxtering from Port to Port consists in buying Commodities cheaper in one Foreign Port, and selling them dearer in some others; in which case the Nation Trading ordinarily gets more or less, in proportion, as the Merchants buy for less and sell for more, and as the Stock and Navigation employed in this sort of Trade is more or less.

The *Dutch* being to buy much of their Victuals, Cloaths, and other necessaries from abroad, and having little Commodities of their own to Export, put themselves upon this Trading from Port to Port; which Trade they have improved to that degree, that they are become, as it were, the Common Carriers of the World, employing near 30000 Trading-Vessels, (including those which belong to their Fishery.) In this way of Trade have this Industrious People yearly bought up vast quantities of *French* Manufactures and Commodities, and uttered them again for present profit in other parts of the World, not foreseeing those dangers they have been bringing upon themselves and all *Europe*.

The *English* have never attained to near so Universal Manufacture as the *French*, or so general a huxtering Trade as the *Dutch*; But

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yet until this last Age had a greater proportion of each then the *Dutch* or *French*; their Trade hath chiefly consisted in the Exportation of their own Commodities, and Manufactures made of their own home Materials; of which that of our *Wooll* being the Principal, was long thought and really still is, or might be, the greatest and richest in the World; This, with our exported *Tin*, *Lead*, *Iron*, *Allome*, *Fish*, and other valuable things, brought in a sufficient quantity of Forreign Commodities to serve our National Occasions, Pomp and Ornament, and left an Annual Increase of Imported Treasure, which in length of time had much enriched the Nation, though our neat Annual Gain by Forreign Trade did never bring in much above 250000 *l.* or 300000 *per annum* increase of Treasure, one year with another (taking any number of 20 years together) as may be reasonably collected by what will follow; nor was that a Contemptible Gain (as the Trade of this part of the World formerly stood) since it had rendered this Kingdom as Rich and Happy at home, and as formidable abroad, as any in *Europe*.

SECT.

SECT. III.

Of Foreign Trade consisting in Exportation, of the advantages of home Manufactures, and Manufactures, incidently other home Trades and Employments are considered; and which of them enrich a Nation; of the Fishing-Trade, and the annual exporting of Corn.

THE National Gain, by Forreign Trade, consisting either in vending home Commodities to Forreigners, or in Trading from Port to Port; It may be fit to be considered how these branches of Trade may be improved to the utmost.

Home Commodities vendible and exportable to Forreigners, are either such as are Capable of little or no *Manufacture*, as Coals, &c.

Or else such as may be manufactured, which may be called the *Principals* or *Materials* of Manufacture; such are *Wooll*, *Silk*, *Flax*, *Hemp*, *Tin*, *Iron*, *Skins*, *Corn*, and others.

Most materials of Manufacture are of small value whilst raw and unwrought, at least in Comparison of the Manufacture, since by Manufacture they may be made of five, ten, or twenty times their first value, according to the

the *Workmanship*; which is proved by the Woollen, Silk and Linnen Manufactures, and almost infinite others; wherefore if a Nation hath naturally any Materials of Manufacture, it is far more advantagious to Export them in Manufacture, rather than the raw Materials, because the Manufacture is so much more valuable, and will make a return of five, ten, or twenty times more *Treasure* to the Nation than the raw Materials.

Besides, it is most dangerous to Export the Materials of Manufacture, since it may transfer the Manufacture it self into some Neighbour Nation, and with it the incident Riches and Populacy; by which means a Neighbour-Nation may become five ten, or twenty times richer and stronger than that Nation which doth Export its Materials, and those innocent Materials may in a short time return in the shape of *armed Men and Ships*, to the Terror and Confusion of an unwise and lazy People.

But if Forreigners will vend their *raw* Materials of Manufacture, it is necessary, or highly convenient for a Nation to Import them, and put them into Manufacture at home; after which, this Manufacture may be either exported and sold for much more than the Materials cost, or being used at home, will prevent the necessity of *Importing* the like
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from abroad, by which the Nation will *save* to the value of the Manufacture: Thus do the *French* and *Dutch* manufacture Forreign Silk, *spanish* and *English* Wooll, and many other Forreign Materials, which they Export and sell again with prodigious advantage.

The *sorts* of Manufacture are so various, and almost infinite, that there is no People so great or numerous but may be universally employed by it; There are many which relate to *Eating and Drinking*, many more to *Apparel* of all sorts, *Furniture of Houses, Equipage, Navigation, War, Literature and Science*, unnecessary, but acceptable *Toyes*, to gratifie the humors and follies of Men, Women, and Children, under all which generals, there are so many *species* of Manufactures, that the very naming of them would make a Volume, some are of *simple* Materials, some of *mixt*.

The Labours of the People bestowed this way, must necessarily glomerate the Riches of the World, and must render any Nation a prodigy of Wealth; for whilst vast numbers of Manufacturers are thus continually improving the value of some Commodities or other, they work for the Nation where they live as well as for themselves; If 100000 Manufacturers get 6 *l. per annum* a piece, the Nation must gain or save 600000 *l. per annum*
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by their Labours, (supposing the Materials to be meliorated only to the value of their *Wages*;) If the number of the Manufacturers be greater, or if the same number gain more a piece, then is the National gain still greater and greater in proportion: All which is too evident in the present instance of *France*, and the contrary in that of *Spain*, which although supplied with the Wealth of the *Indies*, is, for want of home Manufactures, the poorest and weakest of all Nations, and the most *dispeopled*.

For by Manufactures, a Nation may support many hundred thousands of Families, besides the meer Tillers of Lands and Keepers of Cattel, with increase of *people* shall live well, without being a clog and vexation to the Landholders, and shall be highly beneficial to the rest of the Natives in times of Peace, as otherwise they will not be; and as the people increase, so may the kinds and quantities of Manufacture; the very *Women and Children* may ordinarily get good Livelihoods in Manufacture.

Hence must follow a sweet Harmony in a Nation which hath property, when every ones Hand and Head is employed, and when there comes a reciprocation of advantage to the Landholders, and all others, as necessarily there must; And as Manufacture seems a kind

of debt to the laborious part of the people, who by nature are intitled to live; so it is the highest of all *Charities*; as it is most substantial and universal; What signifies the distribution of a little *broken meat* amongst a few Wretches, in Comparison of the support of hundreds of thousands of Families? And lastly, it is attended with the promised Rewards of Charity, *viz. Plenty, Glory, and Prosperity to a whole Nation.*

This, and what hath been said in the last Section, may administer occasion to consider what sorts of Trades, Employments, and Professions do add to the *Riches of a Nation, and what not.*

It is evident that all sorts of home Manufactures must advance or save the National Wealth, the like may be said of those who are employed in the *Fishing-Trade*, so may the Trade and Profession of a *Merchant* add to the National Riches.

There are another sort of home-Traders, who live merely by *buying cheaper and selling dearer at home*, such are *Retailers* of all sorts in the City and Country, whom we call *Shopkeepers*; of which a convenient number are necessary in every Nation to keep open *Marts and Markets* for the vending of Commodities; These may advance their private Stocks and Estates by buying cheaper and selling

selling dearer, but cannot (meerly by this way of Trade) add a penny to the National Riches, so that it may truly be said of one poor Manufacturer, that he adds more in a year to the Wealth of the Nation than all such Retailers and Shop-keepers in England.

And if these Shop-keepers deal over-much in *Consumptive Forreign Wares*, they may assist in the *beggary* of the Nation; so may the Trade of a Merchant *export and exhaust* the National Riches, if he trade over-much in meer *Consumptive Importations*.

And therefore though the *gain* of the persons employed be one main end and design of all Trades and Employments, and in that respect they are all alike; Yet they differ in this; That in some of them the persons employed do immediately or ultimately gain money from *Forreigners*; But in the other, they gain from the *people*, and from *one another*.

Of the last sort, are all Employments relating to the *Law and Physick*, so are *Offices* of all kinds (which I do not say to insinuate any of these Employments to be *useless* in a Nation, or to diminish from that due respect which ought to be given to Men of Place.) There is no question but they are highly necessary for the Regulation of the Body-Polittick, and the Body-Natural; so are the

the *Clergy* for the Information of Mens Consciences; and therefore in every Nation convenient numbers of the people ought to be set apart for these purposes; But as far as they are *Employments*, and intended for *private gain*, 'tis plain they add no Treasure to the Nation, but only enable the persons so employed to share and heap up the Treasures already Imported; The like may be said of all other ways of living by meer *Literature and the Pen*, and some inferior In-land Employments mentioned before; It must therefore be of dangerous Consequence if the Trade of a Nation run into over-much *Shop-keeping*, or if too many of the people withdrawing themselves from Manufactures, and the beneficial parts of Trade, should throng themselves into the *Clergy, Law, Physick, Literature*, and such other Professions as bring no *increase* of National Riches; And the rather, because these Employments and Professions are *narrow*, and can support but a *few* Families in a Nation with convenience; so that it may endanger *Depopulation*, and by their numbers will prejudice one another; Whereas Manufacture and a great Forreign Trade, will admit of and oblige an increase of people even to infinity: And the more the Manufacturers increase, they will the more enrich one another, and the rest of the people; It may then be pro-

30 *Of Forreign Trade by Exportation,*
proper to inquire how the *Manufactures* of a
Nation may be *increased and improved*.

This may be done either by enlarging former *Manufactures*, or by introducing new ones.

New *Manufactures* must be first taught, and then encouraged, and if made of *Forreign* Materials, the Materials must be Imported, after which, as the people find the sweet of their Labours, it is not to be questioned but that they will throng into the Employment; they that want Bread, Cloathes, and other necessary Comforts, will be glad to obtain them honestly; Thus our King *Edward* the Third (a Wise and Victorious Prince) invited over the *Flemmings* to teach his Subjects the *Woollen* Manufacture; And thus have the *French* Policies invited over the most *Exquisite* Manufacturers into *France* from all parts of the World; these with their Schollars were first employed at the Charge of the Government; But the *Manufactures* soon afterwards diffused into the gross Body of the people.

Without these primary Encouragements and Superintendence of the Government, it will be hard to nourish up any new Manufacture, or to enlarge any old ones, at least, suddenly, to any great degree.

Amongst

Manufactures and Fishing, &c. 31

Amongst the Exportations, the *Fishing-Trade* ought not to be forgotten, since, according to modern Calculations, the meer *Fishing-Trade* for *Herring and Cod* on the Coasts of *England* and *Scotland* employs above

See Mr. Smith of Improvements, pa. 268, 269, 270. computes the whole profit of this Fishery to be ten millions sterling: per annum, in a manner, all gained by other Nations.

8000 *Dutch* Ships or Vessels, 200000 of their Sea-men, and Fishers; And the Herrings and Cod sold by the *Dutch* in *Forreign* Countries, do bring an Annual profit of about 3000000 *l. per annum* Sterling to that Nation: besides which, 'tis accounted that there are at least 25000 people more employed and maintained at Home about this particular Navigation, making of *Fishing-Nets*, and the curing, ordering, and preparing of the Fish, &c. besides the *Island, Newfound-Land,* and *Greenland*, fishings of very great advantage.

But the ordinary Exportation of *Corn* out of the Annual increase, hath been accounted most dangerous, and of all others the most unprofitable, because of the possibility of a dearth; which besides the hardships of it, will give opportunity to *Forreigners* of drawing away vast Treasures in a trice.

But if a Nation doth store up *Corn* in cheap years, the people will be secure against a Dearth, and yet when *Corn* is excessive dear
in

in Neighbour-Nations, may then take their time to furnish them, and by that means will make much greater Advantages than by ordinary Exportation; And for this reason have the modern Policies of some wise Nations in Trade, contrived and erected *publick Store-houses or Conservatories for Corn.*

I shall conclude with the words of Sir *Walter Rawleigh*, in his excellent Observations upon Trade, presented to King *James*.
 “*Amsterdam* is never without 700000 quarters of Corn, a dearth in *England, France, Italy, or Portugal*, is truly observed to enrich *Holland* for seven years after; For example, the last Dearth six years past, the *Hamburgers, Embdeners, and Hollanders* out of their *Storehouses* furnished this Kingdom, and from *Southampton, Excester, and Bristol* only, in a year and half, carried away near 200000 *l*. Then what great quantities of Corn did they Transport from round about the Kingdom? from every *Port-Town*, from the *City of London*, and other Cities? it cannot be esteemed less than two Millions: to the great decay and impoverishment of the People, discredit to the Merchants, dishonour of the Land, &c.

Suppose

Suppose then a Dearth or Scarcity of Corn happen once in twenty or thirty years, the Annual Labours of the People in the produce of the exported Corn are lost; 'tis also a bulky Commodity, and makes but a small yearly Return, and the Forreign price and vent of it is very casual, and uncertain, for which Reasons, of latter years, the ordinary exporting of Corn is used only by some poor Nations, who have little other Trade, 'tis said the *French King* hath Ordered publick Stores and Conservatories of Corn.

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SECT.

SECT. IV.

Of Forreign Trade from Port to Port, the Nature and Advantage of it, differs from meer Carriage, and meer Importation; the necessity of a Home Storehouse: The ordinary Exporting of Money or Bullion, of dangerous Consequence; how to be avoided: The Fishing-Trade, and Trade from Port to Port are the Nursery and Support of Sea-men, and Sea-Towns; The Condition of Ours; The National Advantages of England for all sorts of Trade, yet hath the least share.

Since the Trade from *Port to Port* will cause a great *Navigation*, and also bring in very much *Treasure*, and therefore if it be added to the Trade of *Exportation*, must render a Nation the Miracle of Riches and Power; I shall next consider what this Trade from *Port to Port* really consists in, and by what methods it may be driven most advantageously to a Nation.

A Trade from *Port to Port* may be most properly so called, when a Merchant of one Nation buying Goods in another, the Property becomes his, and he carries them to a
third

third *Forreign Market* on his own account; thus the *Dutch* buy up, Export and sell the *French* Manufactures and Commodities; But if a *Dutch*-man carry *French* Goods to be sold in a *Forreign Market*, on a *French mans account*, taking a certain Rate for the Hire of his Ship; this is not properly a Trade from *Port to Port*, but is *meer Carriage*; which sort of Employment (though it may seem least Reputable) may increase the National *Treasure*, as the *Navigation* used in it is more or less, and may employ many *Sea-men*.

A Trade from *Port to Port* doth also differ from *meer Importation*, which is, when the Merchant does Import Consumptive Commodities, which are spent at Home, in which case, if the Importations are excessive, it may truly be called *The Disease of Trade*, since it must cause an Exportation of the National Stock of *Treasure*, and thereby may soon ruine a Nation, as will be shewn; But so cannot a Trade from *Port to Port*, truly so called, because the Goods bought being sold or bartered off, at other *Forreign Ports*, must be ultimately converted into more and more money, and thereby increase the home *Treasure*.

This Trading from *Port to Port*, does not wholly consist in the Carriage of a

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Commodity from one Port directly to another; nor can be so driven to any great, or ordinary Advantage; for the Merchants thus Employed, must either Trade *little*, or else must *glut* the Ports they go to with an over-great quantity of Goods of the same kind; and therefore for the full Improvement of a Trade from Port to Port, it is generally necessary, That the Merchants should first unlade at Home, which will inevitably render a Nation so Trading a compleat and mighty *Storehouse* of all Forreign Manufactures and Commodities; and then from this infinite Miscellany of Goods (as the Merchants observe their time for a Market and the Ports they go to) they may freight their Ships with such *portable Commodities and Cargoes*, as are proper and vendible

See Sir William Temple's
Book of the Dutch Cap. of
Trade, pag. 210. 232.

to advantage; Thus are the Dutch Provinces become the mighty *Storehouse* of the World; the Plenties of the World do grow and increase in other Countries, but there are the Stores, and thence do their Merchants furnish themselves for all sorts of Voyages; "Thus they Transport the Merchandizes of *France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Turkey, the East and West Indies* to the East and North-East "Countries of *Pomerland, Sprusland, Mus-*
" *covy,*

" *covy, Poland, Denmark, Norway, Liefland, Swedeland, Germany;* and the Merchandizes of the last mentioned Kingdoms they transport into the Southern and Western Nations, as Sir Walter Raileigh long since noted, nor is a Trade from Port to Port practicable, or can be improved to any considerable or valuable degree, unless the Nation be made an universal Storehouse.

In the Trade from Port to Port there must be some kinds of *Original Exportation*, because the Merchant cannot purchase Forreign Goods in a Forreign Port for nothing.

And one would think it should hardly be a question, whether in this way of Trade it be most profitable to a Nation to *Export Manufacture, or other home Commodities, or Money, or Bullion.*

But of late years many of our Merchants very much contend for a Liberty to Export Money or Bullion as advantageous to the Trade of the Nation, and have gotten an Act of Parliament to Legitimate the exporting of Bullion, contrary to many other former Statutes, and now Bullion and Money also are become our usual exportable Commodities.

Stat. restraining the Exportation of Money and Bullion are 9 E. 3. Cap. 1. 2 H. 4. 5th 5 R. 2. 2 H. 6. 6th 4 H. 7. 23. 19 H. 7. 5.

The Exportation of Bullion Licensed by a short Clause of 15 Car. 2. Cap. 7. intituled *Trade Encouragd.*

But I shall oppose the ordinary Exporting of Money or Bullion in Trade, especially as the Constitution of our Trade now is, for the Reasons following:

First, I shall admit that the exporting of Treasure in the Trade from Port to Port may increase Treasure, provided that the Merchant makes wise Bargains, and his Ships return safe, neither of which is altogether certain; But supposing the Merchant be both so wise and fortunate, yet 'tis very plain that in this way of Trade the Merchant cannot bring more new Treasure to the Nation than the Merchant by his judicious and prosperous dealing and Voyage can Add to the Original Sum he carried out.

But had the Merchant taken off and exported to the same value in home Manufacture or Commodity, 'tis as plain that the very vending or bartering of that Manufacture or Commodity, would have been a farther Gain to the Nation, to the full value of the Manufacture or Commodity exported; since the Manufacture or home Commodity sold would finally resolve into Treasure, nay, though the Merchant gain but little or nothing in this case, yet the Nation must be a Gainer to the value of the Manufacture or other Commodity exported.

As

As suppose a Dutch or English Ship go with exported Treasure to France, where the Merchant buys French Wine for 1000 *l.* which afterwards he carries into the Sound, and there sells it for 1300 *l.* the Merchant hath brought but 300 *l.* new Treasure or Credit to the Nation; But had the Merchant Exported Herrings or home Manufacture, and by Sale or Barter of his Fish or Manufacture had purchased the same quantity of Wines, which afterwards he sold for 1300 *l.* the Nation must presently have a new Addition of Treasure or Credit for the whole 1300 *l.* In which last Case the Nation gets a new 1000 *l.* by the labours of the Fishers or Manufacturers, besides the 300 *l.* got by the Merchant; if the Merchant had got nothing, yet the Nation had gained 1000 *l.*

Secondly, In this last Case great numbers of Manufacturers, Fishers, &c. are kept and well maintained at Home, whereas the ordinary Exportation of Money must make them idle and useless; whereof the further Consequence is, that the ordinary Exportation of Money must inevitably depopulate a Nation, if it be of any great extent of Territory; so must the Exportation of Bullion be attended with the same mischiefs for the same reasons: The Exportation of Bullion

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does

does also open a way for the Exporting of Coined Treasure, without any hazards of Seizure, by melting down the most valuable Coin into Bullion.

But I expect to be told that *Hamburgh* and *Holland, &c.* do allow of and use the Exportation of Treasure.

To which I Answer, That there is no parallel between such Countries as these and *England*; For these are little Territories, much consisting of Merchants, their Agents, Factors, and Dependents, who live by meer Merchandize, that the rest of the people being but few (in Comparison of what are necessary to people so great and fertile a Nation as *England*) may be supported with much fewer and lesser Manufactures and home Employments; and therefore that the Exporting of Treasure must be less dangerous, and perhaps may be the more necessary there, because by the fewness of people, and consequential restraint of Manufactures, their Merchants may be confined in the bulk and variety of home Commodities to Export.

If it be said that no Nation can be so stored with home Commodities, as to Answer all Foreign Ports and Markets, and therefore that it may be sometimes necessary to Export Treasure in every trading Nation;

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This perhaps may be true in some degree; But this is another question; and in the mean time it remains that it is most profitable to a Nation to Export home Commodities (where it may be done) rather than Money or Bullion, and therefore that the Merchants ought to be restrained from it as much as it is possible.

Then as to the other question, how far it may be necessary in a Nation to Export Money in Trade, It must depend upon the greater or lesser Improvement of the National Trade.

For as a Nation hath a more universal Manufacture and Fishery, more Drinks, Fruits, Curiosities, and Delicacies of its own, its Merchants will be more and more enabled to Freight themselves outwards with home Commodities; These mighty Stores of home Commodities can only be had in great fertile and populous Nations.

But suppose a Nation be not, or cannot be so fully stored with home Commodities as to Answer all Foreign Markets, yet its Merchants first Exporting home Commodities to Ports where they are Venable, may by a Barter, Sale, or Exchange of these, and an eternal Succession of Voyages and Contracts make the Nation where they

they live a *Storehouse* to Perfection; and will then have the choice of all Merchandizes on the Earth to Export; and therefore may ordinarily and beneficially Trade to any Forreign Port without exporting Treasure; And if they may, they will, because else they will loose the benefit of the Market for the goods they may Export; Thus even the *Dutch* originally Exporting Herring, Cod, Earthen Wares, Woollen Cloth, Linnen, and of late Silks, and other home Commodities, and having by the Barter or Sale of these compleated their home Storehouse, can ordinarily buy at Foreign Markets, without Exporting Treasure; By this means are the *Dutch* enabled to Trade as they do to *Swedeland*, *Lieseland*, and *Norway*, where by selling or bartering of their own and Forreign Commodities, they provide themselves with the materials of Pitch, Tar, Hemp and Flax, necessary for Navigation, and with Timber, and other Commodities, for their use at Home, and Trade abroad, whilst the same Commodities cost the *English* some 100000 *l. per annum*, since the decay of our Cloth-Trade into those Ports; which kind of Trade is doubtless advantageous to some Merchants (else they would not continue it;) But does help to drain the Nation of its Treasure.

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I do not say they *Dutch* never Export Treasure, but that by reason of their Forreign Storehouse they are under no such ordinary necessity to do it; and in fact Export little or none to many other Countries, where the *English* Trade with much: whereof I shall have occasion to say more.

I shall conclude, that where the Home and Forreign Trade of a great and populous Nation is duly Regulated, and sufficiently Improved, there will be little necessity to *Export Treasure*.

To which I shall add, That the Exporting of Treasure in a Nation, having ill methods of Trade, must be yet more dangerous, because it facilitates *meer Importation*, and in *England* is chiefly serviceable to it, as will appear.

If a Trade from Port to Port be Improved to any great degree, it must necessarily very much increase the National Treasure, and numbers of people, especially *Sea-men*.

If 20000 Trading Vessels add 300 *l. per annum* a piece to the National Stock yearly, the yearly National Gain must amount to 6000000 *l. per annum*, and so in any greater or lesser proportion, as the Navigation or Gain is greater or less; of which

which we have a plain Example in the *Dutch*, who in about Ninety years time have arrived to a wonderful Wealth and Strength by it, though they have been always forced to buy much of their Victuals and Materials of Clothing, all their Materials of Shipping, and many other chargeable Necessaries from Foreigners, which must be a prodigious Annual Expence.

A *Fishing-Trade* is one great and certain *Nursery of Sea-men*, and brings Wealth and Comfort to *Sea-Towns*; But a Flourishing Trade from Port to Port will make better and more Sea-men, enrich Sea-Towns more, and will Employ very considerable numbers of people at Land, in Building, Manufacturing, Repairing; and other ordering of the Shipping, Tackle, and Goods Imported and Exported, besides the Merchants and their more immediate Dependants; Thus do we see the Towns upon our opposite Shores abound in Riches and People, whilst our own Sea-Towns languish more and more.

And from hence it may appear, that for the utmost advance of this Trade, it is necessary there should be very much Shipping in a Nation, multitudes of Sea-men, great Stocks continually employed in Merchandize,

chandize, great numbers of Merchants, and lastly safe Ports and Harbours.

I shall end this with some retrospect to the last Section, by observing, that no Nation in the World is naturally so adapted for a mighty Trade of all sorts as *England*.

First, Because it hath more excellent *Native Commodities* than any one Nation in the World, as Copper, Lead, Iron, Tin, Allome, Copperas, Saffron, Fell, the mighty Commodity of Wooll, Corn, convertible into Beer, and Transportable, besides near 100 others, which are capable of near 1000 sorts of Manufactures, as *Sir Walter Rawleigh* observes.

That it is one of the most *Fertile* of Kingdoms, and therefore out of its own Stores might support almost infinite numbers of people both for Manufactures at home, and Trade abroad, especially as the Island might be improved.

That it hath more and safer *Ports* and Harbours than almost all the Nations in *Europe* put together.

That it is *better situated* for the Northern, Eastern, Southern and Western Trades than any other Nation.

That the *Herring and Cod*, with which the *Dutch* drive so mighty a Trade, are
caught

caught in our *English* Seas, upon our own Coasts and Shores, and may be managed with more ease and advantage by the *English*, than by any other Nation.

And to conclude, That our People are strong and able for Work at Home, generous and adventurous abroad, and such as all the rest of the World have most coveted to commerce with, and naturally as ingenious, industrious, and willing to labour as any part of Mankind, so long as they can have a reasonable fruit of their Labours, which hath been evidenced by many former undeniable Experiences.

Notwithstanding all which Advantages, *England* hath had very few considerable Manufactures, some of which are lost, and the rest decaying; nor have we any considerable remaining Trade from Port to Port, or Fishing-Trade, of which there are doubtless some Reasons and Causes very fit to be understood and regulated, since the *Wealth, strength, Happiness and Safety of England* immediately depend upon it; I shall therefore in the three next ensuing Sections give an Account of such particular *Obstructions in our Trade*, as have fallen under my notice.

SECT.

SECT. V.

That our Home and Forreign Market is Incumbred, and prejudiced by extraordinary and unequal Charges, and Cloggs in our Merchandize above what are in our Neighbour-Nations, viz. In the building and furniture of our Ships, Victuals, Sea-mens Wages, Customs, Interest-Money, &c. with the Consequences in our Manufactures and Forreign Trade; more particularly of the decay of our Woollen Manufacture: our Exportations now confined to our Importations and Imported Treasure, how to be enlarged, our casual dependence on the Trade of Spain.

Supposing this or any other Nation had all the aforesaid Grounds of Trade, *viz.* All sorts of Home and Forreign Materials of Manufacture, sufficient numbers of People, and those instructed in Manufacture, supposing them never so industrious, that there were no want of Ships, Sea-men, or Stocks of Money, Ports or Plenties at home, yet there is another thing necessary, which is a *good and quick Vent and Market for Commodities*; without which all Manufactures will decay and expire, all other Exportations must fail, and the Trade from

from Port to Port can be no longer practicable or valuable.

For if the Manufacturer cannot sell his Manufacture, he hath laboured to his great loss; so if a Merchant buy Goods at one Foreign Port which he cannot sell at another Foreign Port, he hath at least lost his Voyage, and the Charge of it; so if the Market be not absolutely closed up, yet if it be prejudiced and spoiled to any great degree, the Merchant or Manufacturer will either discontinue presently, or will Trade less and less, and will sing up speedily if the Market doth not mend; for if men of Trade cannot sell for reasonable profit, but will be forced to live much worse and poorer than other men of the like degree and estate in the same Nation, they will not continue long in so unprofitable a Toil.

The *Home* and *Foreign Market* bear such a Sympathy one with the other, that Obstructions in the Market at home, may arise from Obstructions in the Foreign Market, as well as immediately from Causes at home.

For if the Foreign Market for Exportable Commodities fail in any degree, there must be a less and worse Vent and Market at home for these Commodities; if the Foreign Market come to take off a *lesser quantity* yearly

yearly than before, or at a *lesser price*, the Natives must sell a lesser quantity, and at a lesser price, to their Exporters and Merchants, who will not buy more than they can Vend again, nor so dear that they cannot vend them with sufficient profit.

Now the course of our *English* Foreign Merchandize hath begotten an Obstruction in the Foreign Market, because our Merchants are liable to *greater Charges* in their way of Trade than the Merchants of our Neighbour Nations.

For all necessary Charge of the Merchant in his course of Trade is super-added to the Original Cost of his Commodity, so that the Merchant, upon sale of the Commodity Exported, is under an Obligation to pay himself his Charge, and yet to sell so, that he may make himself a reasonable gainer besides.

Then if a Foreign Merchant bring the same Manufacture or Commodity to the same Foreign Port with less charge, he will be able to under-sell the *English*-Merchant as much as his charge is less, and yet shall get reasonable profit.

And if the Merchants of other Nations be able to sell for less, they will, nay perhaps must, (supposing that they drive an open Trade, and upon their distinct Stock) for then being incapable of *combining* to Impose prizes, and

and desiring a quick Market (which is the life of Trade,) they will be worked down by the Forreign Buyers to take as moderate profit for their Goods as they can afford, then at.

The Consequence of this is, that the *English* Merchant must either forbear Exporting, or else must sink his prizes on the *English* Manufactures, whereby the *English* Manufactures must be stifled or discouraged.

'Tis true, That if Nation hath some rich and necessary Material and Manufacture within it self, exclusive to other Nations, it hath the *Monopoly* of this Manufacture to the rest of the World, and therefore cannot be under-fold, but may vend it so as to pay all extraordinary Charges with sufficient gain to the Manufacturer and Merchant; which was heretofore the Case of *England* in the *Woollen Manufacture*.

But if a Manufacture or Commodity be common to *England* and *Holland*, or *England* and *France*, and the *Hollanders* or *French* can bring this Manufacture or Commodity cheaper to a third Forreign Port than the *English*, the *Hollanders* or *French* under-selling the *English*, will beat the *English* out of the Manufacture; It is accounted that the odds of two *per cent.* may of one *per cent.* will produce this advantage.

An inequality of Charge on Merchandize must

must also influence the Trade from Port to Port; For if the *English* and *Dutch* Merchant coming to the same Port with the same Forreign Commodity, the *Dutch* can ordinarily under-sell the *English*; it must also be of the same Consequence in this sort of Trade.

This happens to be the Case between the *English* and *Dutch*, the *Dutch* being upon their defection from *Spain*, driven into great Exigencies, and therefore becoming studious and emulous how to advance their Trade, have contrived all imaginable ways how to Trade cheap, whose Example other Neighbouring States and Kingdoms have followed in a great degree, and the *French* amongst the rest, whilst the *English* do not only proceed in their former more chargeable methods of Trade, but have clogged their Navigation and Merchants more and more, whereof I shall give some Instances, and shall leave the Computation of the odds to the Reader.

First, The *Dutch* have found and long used such a way of building their ordinary Trading Ships and Vessels, that they will sail with eight or ten men, when an *English* built Ship of about the same Burthen shall not sail without near thirty men, so that the *English* Merchant must ordinarily be at more Charge for Wages and Victuals by two Thirds than the *Dutch*.

Secondly, The *English Customs* for Forreign

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Goods

Goods Imported and Re-exported (though half the Customs paid are returned upon Re-exportation) are near twenty times greater than the *Dutch* Customs, and for home Commodities Exported, if not for all, are greater than the *Dutch* or *French* Customs, which does work a further Charge on the *English* Merchants. For,

Thirdly, By this means our *English* Merchants are ordinarily forced to keep near a fourth part of their Stocks dead at home to answer Customs, so that a *Dutch* Merchant may drive the same Trade with a much less Stock.

Fourthly, The late *Act of Navigation*, and the *Act of 14 Car. 2. Cap. 11.* confining the *English* Trade to Shipping built with *English* Timber (which is now exceeding scarce and dear.) The *Dutch*, *French*, *Danes*, *Hamburgers*, &c. can have Ship-Timber in *Germany*, *France* and *Denmark*, for less than half the price of ours. So by means of the same Acts of Navigation, have the *Dutch* and *French* their Cordage, Masts, Sails, Tackle, Pitch and Tar, (being all necessary and chargeable Ingredients of Navigation) very much cheaper than the *English*, so that the *Hollanders*, or *French*, or *Danes*, nay, almost any other of our Neighbours, can build and apparel a Ship, or fit up and repair, at a less charge by half than the *English* can do; the reason

reason of this is more at large Discourfed by Mr. *Roger Cooke* in his late Ingenious Treatises *Of Trade*.

And Fifthly, By means of the late *Irish* Acts against Importation of Cattel, the *Dutch* and *French* can and do

18 Car. 2. Cap. 2. &
20 Car. 2. Cap.

Victual their Ships cheaper with *Irish* Victuals than the *English* can do in *England*, whereas before, *England* could Victual cheaper than any Nation in *Europe*.

Sixthly, The *English* pay 6 per Cent. Interest for Money, and the *Dutch* but 3 per Cent.

Note, no Interest is allowed in *France*.

or less, which is to our *English* Merchants of a strange ill Consequence, if we consider our extraordinary Charges in Victuals, Wages, Shipping, and the money kept dead to answer Customs, besides the Interest of the Stock actually employed in Merchandize and Wars; for the Interest, with Interest upon Interest running up continually, does still increase the Charge and Clogg upon our Merchants, but especially must disable us to make *England* a Storehouse of Foreign Goods, since although they should be bought and Imported as cheap as in *Holland*, they must yet become dearer for Re-exportation by the odds in the Interest; if the Annual Interest per Cent. were the same, yet the odds

in the Stock employed would produce a vast odds in the Interest.

Seventhly, The Act of Navigation obliging us to sail with $\frac{1}{2}$ of our *English Sea-men* (of which we have but a few in Comparison of the *Dutch*, who have at least ten times more than we) hath given occasion to our Sea-men to raise their Wages: To all which may be added our present Charge of Passes, supposing that any Foreign Nation can Trade without Passes, or procure them for less money; the like may be said of our late Charge of Ballastage, &c.

Nay the *Dutch* are so curious, that for more cheapness and convenience, they build Ships of *divers makes, sorts of Timber, and manner of Tackling*, for almost every Trade: whereas the *English* build or use but one sort, and that the most chargeable.

Suppose then, that the *English* and *Dutch* should both Manufacture Silk, Linnen, Woollen, &c. and that an *English* and *Dutch* Merchant buying up these Manufactures at the same Rate at Home, should Export them to a third Port where they are Vendible; 'tis plain that the *Dutch* Merchant being at less charge by at least two thirds for Wages and Victuals, at less charge for Customs or Port-Duties, at a less charge by half in building and fitting up his Ship, and being so much eased in the Interest

Interest of money, and other the said particulars, may under-sell the *English* Merchant a great many times 2 per Cent.

But much more will he be able to under-sell the *English* Merchant in the Trade from Port to Port, because of the excessive height of our Customs for Goods Imported and Re-exported, or if an *English* Merchant go directly from one Port to another, he will still lie under the other in equalities of Charge.

Sir Walter Rawleigh, in his time, observes, That if an *English* and *Holland* Ship of 200 Tun a piece beat *Danzick*, the *Hollander* should serve the Merchant cheaper by 100 l. than the *English*, being sailed with nine or ten Mariners, but ours with thirty, yet our *English* Carpenters keep their old way of building to this day, and know no other.

Nor are the *English* for the same Reason capable of any Employment in *meer Carriage* for any Foreigners, unless, perhaps, during the Convulsions of a War amongst other Nations.

And for the same Reasons the *English* can never drive any considerable *Fishing-Trade*, though we pay no Custom for Fish.

This cheapness of the *Dutch*, and other Foreign Navigation and Trading, doth not only give advantage and preference to their own Manufactures, but to the Manufactures of all other Nations where there is an open, free and reasonable Market; as suppose the *Dutch* buy *French, German, or Italian* Manufactures

factures as cheap as the *English* Merchant, can buy the like Manufactures in *England*, he may be able to under-sell the *English* Merchant and Manufacture in a third Port, with gain to himself.

And hence it is that the *Dutch*, and other Forreign cheap Navigation, hath given rise and growth to the *French*, *Dutch*, *German*, *Italian*, and other Forreign Manufactures; which, with the difficulties on our Trade at home, hath worked us out of near all our Manufactures, except what remains to us of our Cloathing-Trade.

So the cheapness of the *Dutch*, and other Forreign Navigation and Trading, hath in a manner beaten us out of all the Trade from Port to Port, and Fishing-Trade; the *English* retaining little from Port to Port, but the *East-India Trade*, for Callicoes, Pepper, &c. a Trade which continues upon a particular reason, distinct from all the rest, as I shall also shew in the next Section.

And upon the former Reasons, and others mentioned in this and the two next Sections, we must expect that the *Dutch* and *French* may in a short time destroy our remaining *Woollen Manufacture*; the *Dutch* taking advantage of our mismanagement of our Cloth-Trade, of which I shall give a further account, found ways of getting our fine Wooll, which
mixing

mixing with fine *spanish*, and by that mixture making a cheaper and more serviceable fine Cloth than with all *spanish*, have been long high Competitors in the Trade of fine Cloth, and have actually beaten us out in the *Northern Eastland and German Trades*, and share with us in the *Turky-Trade*, both *Dutch* and *French* getting what quantities they please of our long and middling-Wooll out of *England* and *Ireland* (which they now have cheaper than the *English* Clothiers from *Ireland*) do mix it with *French*, *Polonia*, or other Forreign Woolls, (which are two thirds cheaper than ours) and therewith make vast quantities of course Cloths, Druggets and Stuffs, which being acceptable and Merchandizable, they Export to *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Germany*, and most other Parts.

Their Competition in the Cloathing-Trade, joined with some *Polonian*, *Silesian*, *German*, and other later Manufactures of course Woolls, have already sunk our Forreign Market and Vent; this hath sunk the price of our raw Wooll, as necessarily it must, and as their Manufactures increase, and ours does expire, the *French* and *Dutch* must have our Wooll for what they please; and if they cannot have it at their own Rate at one of our Ports, they will go to another, and our necessitous People having their Wooll in their hands,
will

will sell almost at any Rate; which is so far the Case in *Ireland* already, that is there openly Exported at 6 or 7 s. the Tod; and then if we compute what a Tod of Wooll may stand the *French* or *Dutch* in, considering their cheap mixtures of *French*, *Polonish*, and other coarse Woolls, we may very suddenly expect to have our *English* Woolls at about 4 s. the Tod; for if the *English* Clothier gives more for his *Materials* than the *French* or *Dutch*, he cannot live: It is now in most parts of *England* at about 12 s. or 13 s. the Tod, in some places at 10 s. where of late years it was 30 and 40 s. the Tod.

The *French* and *Dutch* have long maligned this *English* Manufacture, and have now made a mighty progress towards its extirpation, and therein of the great support of our *English* Nation; (doubtless the Wooll-Sacks were placed in our House of Parliament to give us a precaution of it :) The *Dutch* of late have been somewhat checked in the *Turkey-Trade* by the War; but the *French* are more vigilant and vigorous in the increase and vent of their Woollen Manufacture than ever; and the *Dutch* are now at Peace again.

I know some alledge, that these Nations may support their present Woollen Manufacture without our Wooll, which our own *English* Clothiers, on their own experience, deny;

deny; They say that a mixture of fine *English*, and fine *Spanish*, makes Cloth so much cheaper and more serviceable than of all fine *Spanish*, That it must needs beat out any Foreign Manufacture made of all fine *Spanish*, (which is always near twice as dear as our finest *English* Wooll) and therefore have the *English* and *Dutch* near subverted the *Venetian* Cloth-Trade in *Turkey*; On the other side, They say that the *German*, *Polonia*, *Silesian*, and *French*, are so coarse of themselves, that although they may be wrought into an ill sort of Composition, perhaps fit for Sails, or such like; yet it is not *Merchandizable*; but in mixture with *English* or *Irish*; good dressing and dying will make very vendible and serviceable Stuffs, Druggets, and coarse Cloths.

Nor is there any shadow of reason to believe otherwise, considering how Ravenous the *French* and *Dutch* have been after our Wooll, since they set up their Woollen Manufactures; why have they and their Agents been lurking on our Coasts and in our Creeks to fish it away for so many years? why have they given treble as much for it as for *Polonia* and *French*? shall we think the *Dutch* and *French* such Fools and mad-men as to make *solaborious* and *dear* a Purchase of an unnecessary Commodity? We are told of some fine *Slavonian* Woolls which the *Dutch* make use of, but withall that they are not comparable to ours; nor of any considerable

nable *bulk*; and are assured by those who should best understand it, that no Nation but *England* hath a sufficient store of Wooll to drive a Forreign Trade of any Consequence.

There is no question, but that if we did manufacture all our Wooll, we might again near Monopolize the Merchandize and Forreign Trade of Woollen-Cloathing, though perhaps some Forreign Manufactures of course Woolls might be kept up for the use of the ordinary poorer people at Home; at least it must be admitted, that if we did manufacture all our *English* and *Irish* Wooll, it would find vent in the World, since it is now all manufactured in *England*, *France* and *Holland*, and doth find vent in the aforesaid mixtures; by which the bulk of the Manufacture must be much increased.

Then if the question be how we shall arrive to the sole Manufacture of our own *English* and *Irish* Wooll, it must appear upon what hath been said, that the only safe Expedient must be by *easing* our Navigation and Trade equally with Forreigners, in which Case having so much advantage in the Materials, we could not fail of an answerable success in the Manufacture; long Experience hath demonstrated that the *meer prohibiting* of the Exportation of Wooll is but a Cobweb, the *Dutch* and *French* being con-

constantly supplied with what quantities they please to have, and ever will be, as long as their advantages in Trade will enable them to give more for our Woolls than our *English* and *Irish* Natives: for so long the Interests of our People will teach them ways to Elude or Baffle the Prohibition; For this reason our late Act of 12 *Car. 2. Cap. 22.* which makes it Felony to Export Wooll, hath nothing remedied the mischief. Upon what hath been said, I may further add, That those who think to better our Trade in general by the forceable subversion of the *Dutch* Trade and Navigation, are as much mistaken; since the *Hamburgers*, and other Trading States, the *French*, and other Kingdoms, who have eased their Merchandize and Navigation, would then take the place of the *Dutch*, and would share the Trade, and exclude the *English*, unless our Trade were equally eased.

I shall conclude this Section with this farther Observation, That for the opening of a sufficient Forreign Vent and Market for our Home Commodities, whether Manufactures, Fish, or others; it is not only necessary to remove all unequal cloggs on meer Exportations, but also those on Imported Goods; because that whilst the *English* Merchant, by the Charges on Imported Goods, is ordinarily disabled to Trade from Port to Port, the value

value of our *English* Exportations must be in a manner *confined* to the value of the *Goods Imported*, and consumed at Home, and the *Treasure* we Import *in specie* yearly.

Whereas were the cloggs on our Imported Goods taken off, we might yearly vend of our own Home Commodities to the value of all the Forreign Goods we should then Import and Re-export, to serve the Occasions of all other Nations, (for these we might purchase by Barter or Sale of our own) whereby our Exported Home Commodities would then amount to much more, probably to more than ten times the value they now do yearly; All which in the course of Trade from Port to Port would resolve into more and more *Treasure* and Riches of all sorts.

And therefore, let the *Treasure* now Imported *in specie* be more or less, 'tis evident, that were our Merchants enabled to Trade from Port, as the *Dutch*, and others, can and do, as our Manufactures, and other Home Commodities, Exported yearly would be vastly more in quantity and value, so would the *Treasure* Imported yearly.

Secondly, The Exportation of *English* home Commodity is yet farther confined, when instead of home Commodity to answer the Imported Goods and *Treasure*, we Export so much *Treasure* as we do; In which Case if the

the *Treasure* Exported be more than is Imported yearly, this Kingdom must insensibly be beggered by meer Trade.

This may be feared to be our Case, because there are very few Forreign Nations (I think none worth the naming but *Spain*) where our Merchants can ordinarily sell our Commodity for ready money, or with so much advantage, that they can afford to return with the price received, but will be obliged to better their Adventures by laying out the money again on Consumptive Forreign Goods, or else apply it to satisfy Forreign Debts by Bills of Exchange; This many of our *Spanish* Traders do, so that our Merchants Import much less *Treasure* than they receive; and it may not be improper to be added here, that whilst the virtue of our whole Trade (as now managed) does still depend so much on that with *Spain*, our Support is very *single* and *casual*, and the Consequence must be fatal, should the *Spaniard* be rendred either *unable* or *unwilling* to Trade longer with us; our Case is already thus, far worse than it was, that *Spain* is grown poor and weak, and the *Dutch* and *French* share and grow upon us in this Trade.

SECT.

SECT. VI.

Other Cloggs on our Trade, viz. The late Acts of Navigation, which, with the other difficulties have begot Monopolies; made our Navigation yet dearer, so Forreign Materials of Manufacture cause meer Importations, hinder our Forreign vent of Victuals, obliges a sudden Consumption of our remaining Ship-Timber, particular dangers and consequences thereof; Our Navigation cannot be increased whilst we are restrained in Trade: The exhausting of our Treasure must subvert our Navigation: The advantages of Forreigners, of Trading by Companies, and the different Nature of Ours, more particularly of our African and East-India Companies and Trade: divers ill Consequences of Joint-Stocks; therein more of Monopolies. Long Land Carriages to London; the Market there de-layed. Odds in Interest-Money must prejudice our Manu-factures: private Interest observed. Our affectation of Forreign Commodities: the prejudice of obstructing the vent of Manufactures. Our Manufacturers liable to be imposed upon by our Merchants, and by Ingrossers, a disadvantage by the Restitution of half Customs on the Re-exportation.

IT being natural, That the continuance of one inconvenience should beget many others, it hath so fallen out in *England*.

Our Natives discerning the odds of Charge between our own and Forreign Navigation, and being therefore tempted to Trade in Forreign Ships, or to deal with Forreign Importers, (which threatned the subversion of our *English* Navigation, and the *Importing Trade* of our *English* Merchants) instead of Regulating our Navigation,

vigation, the late Act of Navigation was made, whereby, and by other Acts, our *English* Exportations are, expressly or virtually confined to our own *English* built Shipping, so is the Importation of Forreign Goods, or else to the Forreign Natives of whose growths or productions they are; which restraint hath begotten, or (jointly with the other cloggs on our Forreign Merchandize) hath heightened, these farther Inconveniences.

First, It hath given a *Monopoly* to our own Merchants, upon our Manufacturers and People, for our own exportable Manufactures and Commodities.

Secondly, It hath given a *Monopoly* to our own Merchants upon all the people of *England*, for Goods Imported.

Thirdly, The said Act of Navigation obliging the *English* to buy Imported Goods only at those Ports, or of those Natives, of whose growths and productions they are, hath given *Monopolies* to all Forreigners on the *English* for Goods of their respective growths and productions; the *Danes* (for instance) taking advantage of it, very much raised their Prizes and Customs upon us, for Pitch, Tar, and Timber, forcing us to pay near double what we did, and to pay them in money, where

See Mr. Coke's Third
Treatise Of Trade.

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we used to barter with them for Commodity; the like may be said of the *French*, those of the *Canary-Islands*, and others, particularly the *Leiflanders*, for raw Hemp and Flax; at the best we are but at mercy.

Fourthly, This Act hath made our Navigation yet more chargeable than before, because the aforefaid Foreign Materials of Pitch, Tar, raw Hemp and Flax are thereby made very much the dearer; It doth also render *English* Ship-Timber still dearer and dearer, which must more and more disable and discourage us in the building of Ships for Trade, and gives a great and dangerous advantage to our Neighbours in the building of *Ships of War* so much cheaper than we.

Fifthly, This dearth of Shipping must the more prejudice the vent of our Manufactures made of our own Materials, and disable us in the Trade from Port to Port, for the Reasons in the last Section.

Sixthly, The same dearth of Shipping, with the other unequal charges on our Foreign Merchandize, must render all Foreign materials of Manufacture imported much dearer in England than in other Neighbour-Nations, (such are Hemp, Flax, Silk, and many others of great consequence) and then our Manufacturers buying the Materials dearer, are obliged to sell their Manufactures dearer, which must hinder their vent at home as well as their Exportation abroad, and

and consequently the rise and growth of all our Manufactures made of Foreign Materials, and accordingly we see our Manufactures of Linnen, Cables, Sails, Sea-Nets, and Silk of all sorts, are some of them in a manner lost, the rest much decayed; which I the rather mention, that this, and what I say elsewhere, may take off some ignorant and unreasonable Reproaches against the *English* Manufacturers, for not selling some Manufactures so cheap as in other Nations, since they are necessitated to it by these and some other difficulties upon them, which I shall take notice of in this and the next Section, as I shall have occasion.

Seventhly, This restraint to our dear *English* Navigation, and Charges on our Merchandize, does by Consequence tend to introduce the *Disease of Trade*, consisting in meer Importation; for as our Manufactures expire, there is a farther occasion of Importing Foreign Manufactures, especially if on this, and other Accounts, they may be sold cheaper here than our own: And hence it is, that we have a prodigious increase of Imported Linnens, Silks, &c. and that we are of late forced to buy much more of our Cables, Cordage, Sails, and divers other Manufactures from the *Dutch, French, Germans, &c.* than formerly we did; in all which our Merchants must be greater gainers for a time, because our occasions for Foreign Goods being greater, they Import and sell the more at home; and from more

and greater Sales must get the more money of our *Natives*, and the rather, because of their *Monopoly* on the rest of the people for Imported Goods, which does enable them to sell so at home, as to reimburse themselves all their Charges, with extraordinary profit.

Eighthly, The said Restraint excluding great numbers of *Forreign Ships* from our Ports must hinder the vending of great proportions of our Beef, Pork, Corn, Beer, Clothing, and other Necessaries.

Ninthly, The dearth of the *English Timber*, arising from the scarcity of it, the said Act doth oblige us to a kind of impossibility, there being not Timber enough in *England* to support any considerable Navigation, at least for any continuance of time; which small remnant of Timber we are forced to spend so fast in the building or repairing of ordinary Vessels, that we shall soon see the end of it, and then in any great Exigence we must seek out for *Forreign Timber* to build Ships of War, for which the Timber now remaining might be reserved.

Tenthly, Whereas the increase and support of Navigation depends on the ordinary Employment of Ships and Sea-men in Trade, of which far the greatest numbers are to be maintained in the *Fishing-Trade*, and Trade from Port to Port, the *English* being, by the Acts of Navigation, and other difficulties, disabled from those Trades, can never increase their Navigation, and upon
a small

a small increase of Shipping must be over-clogg'd.

Eleventhly, The Act of Navigation giving *Forreigners* election either to sell their Goods to the *English* at home, or to Import them into *England*, is so far from encouraging our Navigation, that it hath put it into the choice of *Forreigners*, whether theirs or our Shipping shall be employed, which, with the dearth of ours, hath already increased the Navigation of our Neighbours, but hath reduced ours.

See Mr. Coke's Treatise
Of Trade, this largely and
most rationally discourd.

And lastly, As the dearth of our Navigation and course of Merchandize established by this Act does run us into an *Excess of Importations*, our Treasures must be exhausted, and then the remnant of our Shipping must be becalmed, and our Sea-men will leave us, as they already do, which I shall more particularly observe in the following Sections.

In the mean time it must be apparent, that if we had disposed our selves to a cheaper way of building and sailing, our Trading-Ships (being as practicable here as in *Holland*) and had cald our Merchandize and Trade to an equal degree, these, and all other the aforesaid Mischiefs, had been prevented, and we might have supported a more swelling and beneficial Navigation than that of the *United Provinces*; who are so far from making use of any Expedient of this Nature, that they allow *Free Commerce*

merce to all Forreigners, and their Ships; nor can the like Expedient be found in any Nation on the Earth, who have or aspire to a great Navigation or Trade; 'Tis confessed the like Act was made by the *Rump*, but 'twas on the occasion of their *Dutch War*, and intended (as 'tis said) to exclude the *Dutch* from the benefit of our Trade and Ports; however it were, we are not to learn the *Rump* might be mistaken in their Calculations.

If the people of a Nation have free Liberty to sell at home to all Merchants, they must necessarily have the utmost choice of Chapmen for Manufactures and home Commodities, and by consequence the *best and utmost Market and Vent* as far as the Stocks, Treasures, Industry, Navigations and Occasions of the *World* will bear, and it is known that the most *thrifty* Merchants, and *near Livers*, and those that Trade most *universally*, and with the *greatest Stocks*, and *cheapest*, are ordinarily able to buy dearest, and sell cheapest; and if our Natives were unconfined, they would have Liberty to deal with any Forreigners on the Earth thus qualified; But our Natives being restrained to our own Merchants, and their own National Stock in Merchandize; let the particular Stocks of our Merchants be never so *small*, let them Trade never so *dear*, or so *little*, let them live never so *high and costly*, yet our Natives Manufactures and others must *pay for all*, by selling cheaper to
our

our Merchants, and buying of them dearer; for the Merchants are in a capacity to buy so and sell so at home, as to satisfy themselves, and maintain the Equipage they live in, with much overplus.

But our *clothiers*, and some others, have complained, that they are yet further confined in their *choice* of Chapmen, since the *English* Merchants are confined to the *Trading Companies* and their stocks; which does first give me occasion to consider the *Constitutions* of our *English* Forreign Trading-Companies, and of what *consequence* they are in Trade.

This I shall do (as I think it will appear) without any partiality, protesting that I bear no malice or personal ill will against any Company, or Member of any Company in *England*, but on the contrary, have an high esteem for as many of these and other Merchants as I am acquainted with, having found them very worthy men, and such as much desire the general Good, and therefore hope they will close with the Common Interest in what relates to themselves.

Particular men have too long flattered themselves with a corrupt opinion, that they may gain by the common loss, and that it will *hold out their times*, which I do not say with any particular Reflection on these, or any other Traders; being the ordinary *maxim* or *prudential* of our *cunning men* of all kinds.

Of the first and more ancient sort are our
Regu-

Regulated Companies, or such as are so called, such as are the *Turk y, Hamburgh, Muscovy, and Eastland Companies*, whose Incorporations have been always accompted *Legal*, being intended for the better Regulation of some particular Foreign Trades, and for the raising and support of Common Charges, and for those purposes are enabled to act by Committees.

The Members of these Companies trading on their *distinct stocks*, seem to leave the same choice of Chapmen to our Manufacturers, wherefore I cannot observe but that such Companies might consist with a Flourishing Trade, if according to their Appellations they be really *Regulated*, (that is) provided all *English-men* (according to their Right) be left at liberty to become Members, and Trade, upon Terms that are not *oppressive*. Secondly, That these Companies be not permitted to make such *By-Laws* for their private ends, as may prove advantageous to the Members of the Company, but prejudicial to the Nation; a thing very practicable, as suppose they should prolong their times of buying our home Commodities, or confine the Market to some such particular places at home as may be convenient for themselves, but injurious to our Manufacturers, or other Natives, or should Trade to few Ports where they can have extraordinary Rates and Terms, when they might Trade to more, and consequently vend more Commodity; or should endeavour to set the Dice on Foreigners

Foreigners, by Arbitrary prizes or otherwise, whereby Foreigners may be disaffected with our Commerce; experience hath shown that private interest hath carryed some of them into such or the like irregularities, it would be too long to instance in particulars, I shall only say, that those of the last sort made Foreigners the more Impatient till they had set up their woollen Manufactures.

Our *East-India and African Companies* are of another kind, and of a latter creation, having gotten *Patents* of the Sole Trade of great part of the World *exclusive* to the rest of his Majesties Subjects, which they manage upon *Joyn't stocks*; of which I shall shew the generall ordinary consequences, and then examine how far they are applicable to the particular Cases of these Companies.

First, in the nature of such Companies they must be as injurious as may be to all home-Manufactures made of our own materials, and the vent of our other exports; because by trading on a *Joyn't-stock* they make but one buyer, and therefore have a *Monopoly* for all exportable goods proper only for the Foreign Nations within their patents, and must contract the choice of Chapmen for all other goods proper for these and other Countryes; now the

The present *East-India Patent* granted is July 1660. That to the *African Company* since.

the confining of the Market and choice of Chapman in any degree is dangerous and prejudicial to Trade, and in a larger fence may be called a Monopoly, but it is far more mischievous when the Election is totally lost, for then those who have the Monopoly *may*, and therefore *will*, buy at their own prizes.

Secondly, for the same reason they must be yet more injurious to home-Manufactures made of foreign materials; for first, they will sell the materials as *dear*, and then buy the Manufacture as *cheap as they please*; which must subvert any Manufacture in a trice, especially if made of foreign materials bought cheaper by foreign Manufacturers; suppose then the *East-India Company* by their Commodity of Money, should so far divert the market as to beat out the *Turkey Company* in the trade of *Raw-Silks*, at what rates would our *Silk-weavers* buy raw-silks? or will it be said a Company on a Joynt-stock, will so much value the National interest as to sell as low as the Commodity is sold for in other Nations? or if it will be said, who will believe it? was ever any such thing done either by the English, Dutch, or *East-India Companies*? did they ever yet endeavour to beat out one another in trade by low selling? No, this is never the effect of choice; were a third *East-India Company* in *France* on a Joynt-stock, they would

would hold up the prizes; the advantage got to a Nation by underfelling is the effect of necessity, or high convenience; when the Sellers being infinite, some of them are ready, and all long for dispatch and a new adventure, whereby they work down one another to as low a prize as the Commodity can be afforded at; of all which we have an undeniable example in the present *African Company*, who were no sooner Constituted, but they raised the price of imported *red-wood*, which before was sold at 26. and 28*l. per Tun*, to 80*l. per Tun*, which must make our exported dyed Cloaths of all sorts so much the dearer; and being an intolerable rate, put our Dyers upon finding out the use of *Saunders*, which they still continue; and as a farther confirmation of this, and what I said before, I shall add, that after the Election of this Company, all goods proper for that Trade only sunk at least 15*l. per Cent.* nor would the 10*th. part* of the same goods be vended to the said Company as there was before; to our Merchants driving an *open Trade*.

Thirdly, For the same reason such a Company must be as injurious to the Trade from *port to port*; For having also a Monopoly in selling, they may and will impose Arbitrary prizes on the buyers, and then the Merchants or Re-exporters who buy goods so dear, must

be underfold by any other Nation which drives a *free and open Trade* to the same place from whence they are Imported; this is self-evident, and therefore I should not instance in Fact, but that I have it on good Authority; that even in the *East-India Trade*, which is *Alleged* to be out of the common Rules of Trade, whilst the Trade was open, *viz.* In the Years 54, 55, and 56. our Merchants sold the *Indian Commodities* so low, that they furnished more parts of *Europe* then since we have done, nay, *Holland and Amsterdam* it self; and that this very much sunk the Actions of the *Dutch East-India Company*: a thing which stands with reason; and which therefore recommends an *open Trade* to India, if it may be so driven with long continuance, whereof I shall farther consider.

Fourthly, These Companies having also *Monopolies on these Forreign Natives* with whom they Trade, may set Arbitrary prizes upon them, for our home-Manufactures exported; and will get more, by selling a little very dear, then by selling much more at moderate profit: and though the Joynt-stock employed be not sufficient to manage the Trade any thing near the full advantage, yet those interested in it, will have reason to be satisfied with the returns they make, since in proportion to the Stock, they may be very great

great; and for the same reason, may be well contented to Trade to a few Ports where they can have great rates.

5ly. The industry, courage and ingenuity of all the rest of the Natives (by which as much as by stock all Trade is improved) are shut out, which must not only be a prejudice to the Trade in general, but is a hardship put on the rest, who by their birth-rights are equally intitled to all Trade; upon all which accompts, the Legality of sole importing, sole buying, and sole vending, hath been formerly brought in question, and denied in our greatest Judicatures; and should it be generally admitted, by the same reason,

Stat. 21. Jac.
cob. 3. 12. Hen. 7.
cap. 6th. 3. Jac.
cap. 6th.

the rest of our Forreign Trade might be inclosed to two or three more Companys, and then we should have but three or four Chapmen or Shops for all Exported and Imported Commodities; nay the whole might be granted or reserved to one Company, or one man: in any of which Cases what would become of property? Such is the Case of the general body of our Merchants already, that having in a manner lost the *Eastland and Northern Trades*, they are shut out of the *African, Indian, and Persian, Chinese*, and other mighty Trades within those Patents: since this out of the *French trade*, and therefore are thronged

into the *Streights*, and other narrow remnants, and yet is this the usual preferment of most of the younger Sons of the *Gentry of England*.

Sixthly, Though our other Merchants on their single accompts export much treasure, yet cannot it so easily be done, or not in so great Quality, as by such a Company; whose Joint stock having a great credit, can take up as much ready money as they want; whereas those who will not trust a single trader with a 100*l.* in *mony* will trust him with 500*l.* worth of Commodity, as common experience shews: and 'tis affirmed, that during our trade in 54. and 55. we exported more Commodities, *viz.* cloth, & other things, then since we have done

To this is Objected, that the *East-India* trade so far differs from others, that it cannot be supported, or not with so much advantage and security, (which I admit to be all one) without a Joint stock, which if true, there is no doubt but it ought to be so managed. This then is one great Question, in the mean time I hear nothing of this so much as alledged for the *African* Company: the reasons given, depend upon pretended *Facts in India*, *viz.* the necessity of great common charges in gratifying and corresponding with the *Indian Princes*, and keeping *Forts and Forces* for the defence of our *Factories* there, which they say could never be supported but out of a Joint stock in Trade.

To

To which others answer, 1*st.* that it may be true, great common charges are necessary, & much greater then our Company are at; but that common charges may be rais'd by a regulated company on Goods imploy'd in Trade, or on other parts of the Traders Estates, if the Company are Impower'd to make Levies, which is no more then every Parish are enabled to do for Church-Poor and other things: and that 'tis the same thing for a man to be assubjected to Levies out of that part of his distinct stock which is not in trade, as 'tis to make good any publick charge or loss out of his Joint-stock.

Or Secondly, they say, that if this Trade be taken into the protection of the Government, it will have the Joint stock of the Kingdom to secure it, the same by which we are all secured: they offer what we were able to do in our open Trade in 1654. 55. and 56. But as a demonstration, urge the example of the *Portuguese*, who in an open Trade (I do not mean in an Anarchy nor without conduct and order) made near or full as great a progress in this Trade as the *Dutch*, whilest their Government gave sufficient assistance; which they say, also answers what hath been objected from the supposed disorder of our Trade in those parts, should it lye open, and the capacity the Natives would be then in, of setting the dice upon the English: and as a further answer to this they

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say,

say, the same thing may be objected against all other open Trade in the World.

But then those for our Company, object the Example of the *Dutch*, who being a Nation so wise in Trade, successfully manage the *East-India* Trade by a Company on a Joint stock; which being matter of fact, is beyond all the Argument in the World.

To which is answered, that this Example proves that a Company in a Joint stock may make a great progress in it, but does not disprove the like, or a greater progress under a regulated or open Trade.

2^{ly}. That on the first custom of this Company, and ever since, the *Dutch* had most of the Trade from Port to Port, and carriage throughout the rest of the World; and therefore might with less disadvantage to the rest of the *Dutch* Merchants inclose this to a Company.

See the present
state of the low
Countries, Prin-
ted in 69. Writ-
ten by M. A.
Fellow of the
Royal Society,
P. 114, 116, 117, 119.

3^{ly}. That that Company was occasioned by the distinct Bands or voluntary Associations of Merchants in the several Provinces, who first undertook this Trade, which being soon after the Union, and the Provinces having Originally separate rights, the said Associations had not so good a correspondence as was necessary, which could never fall

fall out under a regulated Company of one Nation.

4^{ly}. That the constitution of this Company being intended for a present Reconciliation of these interests, was Originally but for 21. Years, and was afterwards continued, because the Company growing so rich and powerfull both abroad and at home, the Members were generally *chosen States*, and therefore above any attacke at home from the rest.

See *Mandelloues Travells*, p. 285.

5^{ly}. That as the *Dutch* Company is constituted, and have managed this Trade, it hath redounded to almost, if not fully to as general an advantage, as if managed by an open or regulated Trade: in which they say our Company is much defective; & that supposing a Joint stock necessary, or highly convenient, yet if we might manage ours to more National advantage, it were but fit it should be done.

To prove this might be done, those for a more open Trade urge, that our now *East-India* patent contains near or fully one third part of the World, and therefore must have many hundreds, if not thousands of parts, that whereas their privilege begins at the Cape of good Hope, it is from thence above 4000 Miles, upon the Coast of Affrick to the Red Sea, in all

Note the *Affri-
can* Companies
Patent con-
tains from the
Streights Mouth
to the Cape of
good Hope.

which

which they do not Trade to one Port, and very little if any thing, in the *Red Sea*: which they say might be done to considerable advantage, and much more to *Persia*, then we now do; That in *India* our Company do not Trade to above 20. or 30. Ports, nor vend our Woollen Manufactures at above 3. or 4. Ports, and there *very dear*, who sell again much

Printed in (77.)
pag. 21.

dearer, and to *Ingrossers*, which hinders the vent: that in *China*, or *Fapan*, they have no Trade at all, 'where (to use these words of the Author of the Book in defence of the Company,) in all likelihood more considerable quantities of our Woollen Manufactures might be vended, and from thence in return thereof *Gold, Silver, and Copper* might be brought to supply at least, in a great measure, the Trade in other parts of *India*, without carrying so much out of *Europe*: But these Trades (he says) are not so easily gained as some fancy, great hazards of considerable stocks must be run, &c.

Whereas, they say were a greater share of the industry and vigour of the Nation now pent up, and greater stocks now worse employed, or idle, let into this Trade, we might hope for a great Trade to the Ports now of no use to the Company, for that in fact the *Dutch* Company Trade to all Ports in *India, China, Fapan,*

Fapan, &c. and drive a mighty Trade to *Persia* with the Commodities of those Countreys, viz. Spice of all sorts, &c.

2dly. They say by this our want of a sufficient Commerce in *India* there is a very small Navigation employed in this mighty Trade, of what might be, being not above 20, or 30. Ships to and from *India* in a direct course, and in *India* so inconsiderable that it is not worth the noting: That for this reason, and because we there vend so little Commodity, our Company does Trade with vast quantities of exported *Treasure*, inasmuch that upon search of the Custome books of the Port of *London* only, it appeared by the Entrys, that the Gold and Silver exported for *India* by the said Company from the 2d. of *March* 1673, to the 11th. of *March* 1674, amounted to 500. sixty odd thousand pounds Sterling; besides what might be entred in the out-ports, and without entry privately exported, which those that understand this Trade will not think a little: the Author of the aforesaid Pamphlet confesses, that from the end of the Year 1674, to the beginning of the Year 1675, was exported to *India* about 400000*l.* more, in which perhaps we have reason to be suspicious of his modesty: (It were a Nationall work to search the entries for this and the other Years succeeding) that 'tis the exporting of this Money that

that endears our Company to the *Indian Princes*, and buys their protection, who otherwise might destroy them if they would, our Company, having not above 2 or 300 people in it, their fort *St. George*, including Factors and Agents of all sorts, and at *Bombey* fewer.

Whereas, that on the other side the *Portuguese* whilst they had the Trade of the *Indys*, though under no Company, supported a vast *Navigation* there to serve the occasions of those mighty Empires and their own; that since the *Dutch* have supplanted the *Portuguese*, they have yet a greater, having there thousands of Ships Trading from Port to Port in the *Indies*, *Persia*, &c. Besides 50, or 60, (if need be) more *Men of War*, and keep great *Armies* in pay: That they have gotten many spacious *Countrys*, *Islands*, and *Populous Citys* of their own, whereof *Batavia* is near as big and rich as *Amsterdam*; besides divers *Tributary Kingdoms*, whom they have forced into a profitable compliance, and were it not for fear of the English power at home, could daily ruin us at their pleasure: that by the greatness of their Trade in these parts, they gain so considerably, that they can freight home their great Fleets with the most valuable Commodities in the *Indies*; being the result of their industry in those parts, not of their exported Money.

3ly. That

3ly. That the *Subscribers* to our *East-India* Stock were originally but few, and the Stock but small, that divers of the shares being now bought in and consolidated into particular hands, there are not above 60. or 80. persons or thereabouts considerably concerned in the Joynt stock; that although the Stock be not near sufficient to manage even the present Trade, and therefore could admit of more *Deposits* of Money, which would let in a greater number of our people, the Company to prevent the necessity of it, do take up 4 or 500000*l.* at Interest at 5 *per Cent.* which by their dear Sales at home yields them 20 or 30 *per Cent.* or more; that as the Trade redounds to the benefit of few at home, so to as few in *India*, the Companies, Factories and employments being few, and most lye divided amongst men of mean condition, who will depend solely on the Company, being originally *Hospitall Boys* or such like, and all others restrained to *Traffick*, *Frequent* or *haunt* the *Indies*, or places within their Patent, by a Clause therein, under penaltys of *Imprisonment*, *Seizures* and *Confiscations*, frequently and severely exempted by the Company, how legally I leave to be examined: That upon this accompt, even those few Seamen or others whom they permit to deal for themselves, can make little profit, being charged with great

Multits,

Mulfers, made payable to the Company at their discretion for all the Commodities they export or import.

See *Mandelsloes Travels* 285. State of the Low Countryes. 159. 160. In 1608, the *Dutch East-India* Stock was made up near 2 Millions Sterling, besides great dividends. Present State of the United Provinces p. 163 our *East-India* Stock actually paid 1660 was but 368000^l, the Trade so ill, that in 1665, our effects were sold at 70. *per Cent*, and farther Subscriptions refused: but the act of 15. *Car. 2.* Licencing the Exporting of *Bullion* and forreign Coyne, and the Company betaking themselves to this Commodity, hath occasioned the support of this Trade to the present degree.

sides their Superiour Assemblies, amounting to great Numbers, all which are but *Deputies* of far greater Numbers; that besides their *Navigation Trade*, *Judicature*, and *War* in the *Indies*, let in Multitudes of others, into very profitable employments, so that in effect they make up another *potent Government*, for the aid of their Nation in all exigencies.

I have been the more copious on this particular Subject, first, because of the apprehensions or pretences of some, that our stupendi-

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ous advantage in this Trade gives us a kinde of National security, so that no sooner can others mention any defect in our Trade, but they are presently told of our Trade to the *Indies*, the wealth of the *Indies*, and our Navigation to and in the *Indies*.

And yet I shall admit, though with little reputation to the rest, that our *East-India* Trade, such as it is, seems the most flourishing branch of the whole, and therefore that the Gentlemen concerned in this Company have evidenced their conduct in the *present way of Trade*.

2ly, I shall not much contest but that the Indian Commodities consumed at home, and re-exported, may (as the rest of our Trade is now managed) *prevent* the exportation of near as much money to our Neighbouring Nations, *viz.* by the use of Callicoes instead of other Linnens, by a Barter of these and the rest of our *Indian* Commodities in *France* and other parts for other *Consumptive goods*; in which there is an advantage, because the less money we part with to our Neighbours, they will be in the less capacity to hurt us, but this does not prove the *Indian* goods re-exported bring in the Treasure exported to *India*, since the whole, or a great share of it may be, and is by the circulation of forreign contracts *finally resolved* into other consumptive

tive Importations, of so dangerous a consequence it is to export money.

But suppose the *Indian* goods, re-exported bring us in more Treasure, yet is it evident from such Facts as I have mentioned before as are admitted by the Company, and such as are indisputable, that this part of our Trade (which before 1654. was managed by the like Company) was never improved to any great or considerable degree, in comparison of the progress made by all other Nations which have undertaken it : whereof there must be causes and reasons highly necessary to be examined and regulated ; I shall add, that for those other Facts relating to the present debate which seem of less notority, they are such, as to my knowledge were affirmed by many credible witnesses, and by them intended to be proved before a Committee of the *House of Commons*, upon the occasion of a Petition there formerly exhibited by the *Clothiers*, but having attended several days, were never heard, because the Parliament was engaged in other things, and afterwards Prorogued : but I doubt not they are all ready to attest the same and more before that Judicature ; which I say, that it may not be thought that I have highly or officiously reported any of the aforesaid allegations to the same Judicature, I shall leave it to be determined by

what

what expedients to enlarge this Trade, being in a matter of this Importance contented to have opened some questions and Facts relating to it : I am so free from any malice to the Company, or any man so much as concerned in it or envying their gains, that for a more easy Composure of things, I hartily wish there may be found some more beneficiall Nationall and comprehensive way of Managing this Trade by a Joynt stock, that thereby the present Interests of the *Gent.* of this Company may be secured, nay and improved ; if this cannot be done, then submit it to farther consideration how just and reasonable it is that these *Gent.* should have compensation for what they shall really lose by the Dissolution of the Company.

I shall conclude this with remarking, First, that the *Dutch East-India* Company Trading on a Joynt-stock, and therefore with as much disadvantage to their re-exporting Merchants as the English, hath been a means to preserve us this Limb of Trade from Port to Port in *Callicoes*, *Pepper*, &c. and probably the rather because our Trading in Money hath so far debosh'd the *Indian* Market, that the *Dutch* are not over-ready to deal for these Commodities, and therefore principally apply themselves to their richer *Spice Trade* whereof they have the Monopoly.

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This restraint of our Market to our own Merchants and Companies, hath yet brought a farther mischief upon our Manufactures, because our Companies being seated in *London*, our Natives are forced to bring their Manufactures thither by *Land Carriages*, some of of which are so long that they are as chargeable as a Voyage to *Spain* or *Turky*, Quantity for Quantity; all which is superadded to the originall charge of the Manufacture; our Clothiers have also complained, that when they have brought their Cloaths to *London*, they have been frequently and long delayed before they have been able to vend them; which whether it hath proceeded from any correspondence or Intelligence between the Companies, their Committees or Agents, their want of Stocks or universall Trade, or from the dearness of our course of Merchandize, and the consequentiall obstructions in the foreign Market, or from all together, I shall not positively undertake to say: But certain it is that in this case our Clothiers for want of a quick Market lose the Interest of so much of their Stocks as lyes dead, which also is superadded to the first cost of their Manufacture; but yet being made necessitous by delay, and confined to the *London* Market, are forced to sell cheap: and then are the poor Manufacturers most miserable, when on the one hand

hand the charges they are at oblige them to sell dear, but yet are confined in their just demands.

It may be remembred here that the odds in *Interest of Money* between *England* and *Holland*, and *England* and *France*, (where none is allowed to be taken under the highest penaltys) must as much prejudice our Manufactures as our foreign Trade, by the unequal charge it brings on our Manufacturers, which charge is still increased as they are longer delayed.

The freedom of the Market being of so great importance; it must also follow, that the like Cloggs and incumbrances put upon the Trades of Ware-house keeping and Shop-keeping, must have ill effects on the National Trade, because these Trades make up the publick Marts and Markets, as hath been said.

From the Contents of this and the last Section it may be observed, that it is not only necessary to ease the *course of Merchandise*, but to remove all other Cloggs and restraints on the *home Market*; for though our Merchants should be able to Trade as cheap as foreigners, yet if it should lye in their disposition to impose on the rest of the people, (whether Manufacturers, Shop-keepers or others), the Merchants might gain much more than

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now they do, but our Manufacturers and other Natives might be still sufferers in some degree; 'tis too apparent that our English Clothiers have made so ill Markets at *London*, that they have lived poorly and got little or nothing, whilst the Merchants have lived splendidly and laid up money, the like may be said of others.

And here it may be farther observed how predominant private interest hath been amongst us, and how finely it hath spun the thread; our *Land-holders* have thought to ease themselves by thrusting great part of the publick Charges, upon Trade, the Merchants in Exchange have gotten *Monopolies on the Land-holders*, and people for all goods exported and imported; and of these some Companies trading on Joint Stocks have got *Monopolies exclusive to the rest*; but at the same time we have given all forreign Nations *Monopolies on the English*, in all which we have been eagerly seeking to get advantages on one another, but have laid our selves open to Forreigners; who (whilst we scramble for the present wealth in the Nation) take it out of our fingers at their pleasure.

To which may be added as a farther obstruction to the growth of our Manufactures, that our people have gotten a vain and imoderate *affectation and use of forreign Manufactures*,

factures and Comodities; which must necessarily sink the Market at home for our own of the same kind; for the same quantity of home Commodity wanting of its former rent, must stagnate and lye on the owners hands, who either will not be able to sell it at any rate, or must sell it much the cheaper.

This *deadness and cheapness* of any Manufacture, on this or any other occasion, will have a very ill Consequence; for it must presently sink the Manufacturers *wages* and discourage the Master of the Work; and then in case the Market doth not mend in some reasonable time, they will withdraw both their labour and Stock.

Nay this, or little better, must be the ordinary fate of all our Manufactures, by the meer want of a Forreign vent; for as any of our Manufactures which supply our National use, draws in more and more of our people till the Manufactures becomes too bulkey to receive a full vent at home, it must then equally stagnate on the hands of all that are concerned in it; at least render them necessitous, and endanger the Manufacture: the increase of imported raw-silk from *Turky* in barter for our Cloath, occasioned the increase of our Silk Manufacture; what is now like to become of it may be seen.

Before I go to the next Section, I shall yet observe

observe these farther inconveniences from the aforesaid constitutions and course of our Foreign Merchandize.

First, That our Manufactures being confined to buy of our own Merchants and Companies, are not only subject to buy Foreign materials of Manufacture at such prizes as they can and will please to afford them, but must be contented to buy *worse materials* than other Nations make use of, in case our Merchants for their own gain, or by negligence of their Factors, import worse.

2dly, That Foreign materials of Manufacture being thus straitly Imported into *England*, gives our Traders frequent opportunity to *ingrosse Imported Commodities*, (both materials of Manufacture and others,) and thereby to impose 3 times the current prize in other Nations upon our Manufacturers or other buyers, which must not only disable our Manufactures, but hinder re-exportation; this ingrossing Trade is the daily design of a sort of *Cunning men* amongst us; which with *scaling Customs*, and importing and vending *Prohibited goods*, are the ordinary methods of getting an *Estate on a suddain*.

3dly, The seeming ease, we have by a *restitution of half Customs upon re-exportation*, is so far from being really such, that it not only leaves the great disproportion and charge mentioned

mentioned in the last Section, but in Cases where our imported materials of Manufacture are re-exported, being a further unequal charge on our English Manufacturers; because that when re-exported and sold, the Foreign buyers are eased of about half the duties paid, especially if sold so near as *Holland* or *France*; of what consequence then must this be in the Silk-Manufacture? (Supposing *Holland* or *France* could not be otherwise provided of Raw Silk) and so in others, but more particularly in our Imported *Dying Stuffs*, and *Raw Sugars from the West Indies*, which are materials peculiar to the English; but by this disadvantage in re-exportation are now mostly Manufactured by Foreigners; of which I shall have occasion to say more, upon Consideration of our present Plantation-Trade, in the mean time, upon what hath been already said, and what I shall add in the next Section, let any man Judge how causelessly our poor people are taxed with dear Selling their Manufactures, with Sloath and other inconsiderable Reproaches by such as *live at ease*.

SECT. VII.

Forreigners eased in Trade; Other clogs of difficulties upon ours; Want of populary, incidently of extreamp prizes of victuals, and how the duration of Land-Rents may be secured, our people restrained from Manufactures; the Abuse of the Act of 43. Eliz. 2. Act of 5. Eliz. cap. 4. Meer Prohibitions of no value. Freedomes and pre emtions of Corporations, with the Consequenees: Free-Schools and Scholar-like Employments: Forreign Protestants hindered from transporting hither; want of Toleration of Protestants Dissenters; the objections briefly considered: Elections in Corporations. Monopolyes of New Manufactures: delay and charge in some Law-Suits. Tyths of Hemp, Flax, and Fish, more of Customes, and incidently of Taxes.

FROM the foregoing Sections, it appears how dangerous it is to clog Trade. It is like putting a pound weight at the end of a pole, which is heavier then 20. times so much placed at the hand, for so a small impost or difficulty on Trade shall work down all *Land revenues* more then the sums actually paid; Nay *Land-Rents* will rise under greater Taxes, where home and Forreign Trade is left

left open and free, as experience hath shown in *Holland* and elsewhere.

2dly. That the charges and Clogs on Trade are to be estimated tolerable or inconvenient by *Comparison*, as they are more or less then the charges on Trade in other Nations, and therefore, That it is of high importance to watch the pollicies of other Nations in Trade; if other Nations Trade with as much disadvantage to their Natives as the English, they never out-strip us; But if they ease and facilitate their Trade at home and abroad, So must we, else they will beat us out.

What then are we to expect whilest our neighbouring Forreigners continue to have the aforesaid advantages upon us in course of Forreign Merchandize, when also the home-vent of their Manufactures is not confined to the Merchants of one Nation, nor Compnyes of one Town, when their Manfacturers are not obliged to the charge of long Land-carriages, nor opprest with delays, but can sell when and where they please, and toall Merchants Aliens, aswell as to their own, and therefore have an unlimited and most profitable market.

The odds in *Populary* must also produce the like odds in Manufacture; plenty of people must also cause *cheapnesse of wages*; which will cause the cheapnesse of the Manufacture; in

a scarcity of people wages must be dearer, which must cause the dearness of the Manufacture; But this populacy I speak of, must not be understood of those people which the *Extent of Territory* makes necessary for the meer tilling of the ground, keeping of Cattle &c. for in this sence there is no doubt, but the grand Seigniors or Spanish Dominions are more populous then *Holland*; The populacy I intend and which only can be serviceable to Manufacture, are those exuberant numbers which cannot find Employment in husbandry, nor otherwise but in Trade; in which sence *France* and the *United Provinces*

See Sir William
Temple's Book
of the *United
provinces* Ch. 6.

are most Populous; their Trade and people have grown up together, having nourished one another; the like may be said of some parts of *Germany* and *Italy*.

The peopling of
Ireland here intended he was to supply the loss by the Irish Massacre being computed at about 250000. persons besides what the growing plenty of *Ireland* have invited over daily.

But on the other side *England* never was so populous as it might have been, and undenyably must now be far less populous then ever, having so lately peopled our vast *American Plantations* and *Ireland*; the decay of our Manufactures hath much depopulated our Inland Corporations of the Villages Adjacent; the decay of our Fishing Trade our Sea-Towns; I know

know this want of people is hardly credible with many who see no farther then their own ease and gain; they will tell us, we have so many people already that we know not what to do with them; which is true, and so they have in *Spain*, where their Villages are in a manner forsaken, and many of their great Cities and Towns lie half empty; most of their ordinary people having no employment at home, are gone to *America*, those that remain chiefly consisting in Gentlemen, Lawyers, Officers and Shopkeepers, with their necessary men of husbandry and servants: I must not omit Priests and beggars, since to the honour and comfort of *Spain* they make about a fourth or fifth part of the whole; there is little or no support for other ranks of men: how near this we are in *England* let any man judge, or how soon we shall come to it through the decay of our Manufactures; What an uproar have we already in an English Parish if a poor young couple happen to marry, or a man with Children chance to get into a house? how they are tossed from Justice to Justice, and from pillar to post, by vertue of the several Acts for settlement of poor? And what joy there is when these clogs are removed? which acts and prosecutions regularly and daily force many

Stat. 39. Eliz. 4th
7. Jacob. 4. 24 Car.
2. 12.

many out of the Nation, and in effect *banish them by Act of Parliament*; 'Tis like, that besides the Inquisition, the proud *Spaniards* had some such expedients as these to be rid of this kinde of lumber; they would be now glad of those laborious drudges to encounter the populous *French*.

Being upon this Subject I cannot omit to observe the bad consequences of some others of our late Laws, made to raise the *prizes of Victualls*, which doubtless were projected for the raising *Land Rents*, viz. the *Acts for Transportation of Corn*, and the *Acts against the Importing Irish and Scotch Cattle*, which had they the full effects intended, must much assist both in depopulating the Nation, and Subverting our remaining Manufactures; For if the Manufacturers buy his Victualls at excessive rates, at what rates must he sell his Manufacture, or how shall he live? especially in a time when his Manufactures fall upon his hands daily? but this will mainly dissatisfy some, who will have no Manufacture or Trade, if the price of the Victualls must not be excessive, for then say they, how can the vallue of Lands be raised? to which I answer, First, that the products of Lands do not wholly consist in Victualls, and that much Land is to be applied to many other as profitable, and (perhaps more profitable ways) then for

for meer Victualls, especially in a Nation abounding in Trade and People; for this I shall refer to our Copious Books of Husbandry, which then may do us much good, but little or none before.

Secondly, That though Victualls be not at a very excessive price, yet if there be a *quick and great market* at a middling price, it will raise and hold up the vallue of Lands, as experience hath proved of late years.

But Thirdly, It is impossible the vallue of Lands can be much raised by the meer raising of the price of Victualls, especially in a Nation but thin of people; nor would such a Revenue endure or be rollerable; perhaps the Spanish Dons did once raise the prizes of Victualls, or suppose they should do it now, what weighty effect would it have, unless to drive all the rest of the Spaniards into *America*? But that which will most certainly and durably raise the Revenue of Land must be the *increase of Treasure and Trading people*; suppose the people of *England* were trebled, 'tis plain that the Land must yield treble the produce in meer Victualls, else the people must starve; but these people will not starve, especially *trading people*, nor will they live needily, or scarcely if they can help it, and will therefore set themselves and others to the improving of all corners of Land in the Nation, till

till our Lands produce more then treble the Victualls they now do, a thing very practicable, and then supposing Victualls as cheap and cheaper then now, Land will ordinarily be treble it's present value, especially if we consider how much may be then applyed to raise Hemp, Flax, and other necessary and profitable things, with the increase of Wool,

By the Maps of *England* it is found to contain 29568000. Acres besides that which is allowed for High-ways, all the United Provinces are hardly so big as *Yorkshire*.

Hides, Tallow, &c. And as the people increase, so will the value of the Land; there is no doubt but *England* upon the utmost improvement might maintain 6 times its present number of people, nay 10 times with an indifferent use of that mighty plenty of Fish our own

Sea affords us; there is as little doubt but upon a great increase of people and money, Victualls will be rather too dear, and that Laws may be then requisite to restrain the price.

Such was the ancient populacy of *England*, that we had formerly Statutes made in restraint of the exportation of Corn, our Fleish also found vent, though our people kept Lents, Ember-weeks, and Fasting days; wherein they fed on Fish and white meats, and yet we read of Famines in those days; whereas now we finde it necessary to export all the Corn we can, we eat very little Fish, and

and have made Acts against the importation of Forreign Cattle (which by the way gave a *Monopoly* to a few English and Welch breeding Counties on all the rest of the Nation,) and yet we thought our markets over-clogged.

But *England* is not only prejudiced by the paucity of people, but we have another rank of Statutes which hinder very many of those we have from applying themselves to Manufacture: one is the Stat. of 43th. *Eliz. cap. 2.* which according to the intention of it seems necessary now when we have such a vast increase of poor; but such is the Arbitrary latitude given by the Act to Over-seers and Justices, that many of our Laborious people well able to work, by clamour or favour get Parish maintenances, choosing rather to live lazily by this means, assisted with some pilfering.

Then we have the Stat. of 5th. *Eliz. cap. 4.* which (though it gratifies the blinde avarice of some of our Corporation men) is more prejudicial, by restraining our people to work in Manufacture, unless they have served an *Apprentiship full seven years*, which is so long a term of drudgery and slavery before they can reap any fruit of their labors, that Parents are deterred from putting their Children Apprentices to Manufacture; nor will many of our

our Youths or young men be brought to it especially the most apt and docile, and those of ripeness of years, of which many would be more perfect in 3 or 4 years then others in 10, and therefore they betake themselves to other more easy and ready Employments, or else live idle.

The same Act does very strangely provide that no man shall take an *Apprentice* for Woollen Manufacture in any Town Corporate, unless such *Apprentice* be his Son, or the Father or Mother of such *Apprentice* have the clear yearly value of 40s. Inheritance, nor in any Market-Town or Village unless he be his Son, or his Father or Mother have the clear yearly value of 3*l*. Inheritance, which clause apparently shuts out at least 5 parts of the people in 6, from the Woollen Manufacture; and by consequence tends to the *depopulation* of our Inland Towns, the increase of Rogues, Vagabonds and poor; These difficulties on Trade begot the Act of the 43. *Eliz.* and many others of the like nature, and thereby much work for our Justices.

Which by the way may give occasion to observe how vain it is to make Acts against Rogues, Vagabonds, or Poor, nay against thefts or Murthers, how little the Houses of Correction, Whipping-posts, Pillories, or Gallows can prevail, whilst our other Constitutions

Our Disadvantages, Land-Rents, &c. 97
tutions drive our People into necessities, nor any *prohibitory* or *penal Law*, ever have the intended effect, unless the *Grounds and Causes* of the mischiefs be removed; of which I shall say more when I come to speak of our late Prohibition of *French Goods*. Amongst the restraints on our *English Trade*, the inclosure of Trade to the *Freemen of Corporations, and Guilds*, may be deservedly mentioned as one.

This Priviledge is claimed by most, or all of our *ancient Corporations*, and might be well intended at first by the Donors, but as now used is very prejudicial; for the Power of admitting Free-men being generally lodged in a Council or Committee of a *few Free-men*, any Forreigner (and such they call all those who are not Sons or Apprentices of seven years standing to a Free-man in the same Town) must *buy* his Freedom before he can exercise any open Trade there; for which these Free-men are left at liberty to demand as great and arbitrary Price as they please, or if they will, may wholly refuse; whence it commonly follows, that Beginners in Manufacture, and other Trades, being Forreigners, and having but small Stocks, can never obtain Freedom, and without it are burthened and plagued with by-Laws, Penalties, Distresses, and Seizures; nay, if a Man be exquisite in his Trade, he

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shall hardly get a Freedom for Money, in a Corporation where there are more free of the same Trade; for then he is lookt on as a *dangerous person*, and likely to *eat the bread out of their mouths*, (as they phrase it) in which they will gratifie, and influence one another, being the common cause, and can easily do it: The fewer Free-men there are in a Trade, they think the rest may get the more; and thus are most of our ancient Corporations and Guilds become *oppressive Oligarchies*, excluding or discouraging the *English* Subjects from Trading in our greatest and best situated Towns, where the *Markets* are; and which are therefore the most proper and ready *Seats* for Manufacture, and other Commerce: For this, and the Act of the 5th of *Eliz.* our Corporation-men have only this to say, That care ought to be taken, that none but persons *skilful* should exercise any Trade, which is true; but the Law of necessity, common sense, and experience, provides sufficiently for this, since an unskilful Artificer or Trader will not find employment, and therefore must receive due punishment by his own *Ignorance*: 'Tis confessed, Manufactures may be made *deceitfully*, which may disgrace and prejudice our vent abroad; but this fraud is an Act of Skill, which cannot be discovered or prevented, without the daily scrutinies of Judicious Persons; for which

which our other former Statutes have already made *some provision*, but *defective*; it were to be wished, there was a constant Judicature of Men knowing in Trade in every County to supervise the sufficiency of Manufactures: In the mean time this Argument for the support of the Act of the 5th of *Eliz.* and Freedoms must appear very fallacious, since both the Act and the Freedoms serve only to exclude the *English* Subjects, and of those many of the most skilful, from Trade, and by inclosing Manufactures to a few, hinder their growth, and make them far dearer.

A farther inconvenience of these Freedoms is, That the *pre-emption* of our Manufactures, and Imported Goods, in most of our inferior Corporations and Cities, as well as in *London*, is in a manner inclosed to the *Number* and *Stacks* of the Free-men, and is very much subject to their pleasures, by reason of their union and correspondence in Councils: So that he who would escape the long Land-*Carriages* to *London*, and *London* Companies, must fall into the hands of these other Free-men; these Free-men have generally so brave a time of it, that they can live in ease and plenty, (every Shop resembling an Office) whilst the laborious part of our Traders are ready to perish; which Priviledges could not have survived the Statute of 21 *Jac.* against

Monopolies, but that they are *saved by a special Proviso in that Statute; so civil were the Burgeffes of Corporations at that time.*

Our Trade being thus clogged, and the very Avenues to Manufactures so much narrowed and choaked up, it doth not a little help to the subverting of our Manufactures, and other Trade, that the Passages to other Preferments are made so open and easie, at present I mean all those that depend upon *Literature*, in which our Youth are led from step to step by all manner of Incouragements; First, by the multitude of our late endowed *Free-Schools*, where every ordinary Man's Son is taught *Latin, Greek, and Hebrew*, for a small matter; and then is above Manufacture: Then we have two mighty endowed Universities, where there will, at least, be hope of preferment, let the throng be never so thick; and thence they have farther and more comfortable prospects; and in the mean time live easie, at little or no charge, as Servitors, or on small Stipends, till they become Scholars of Houses, &c. others of these Free-School-Boys grow Pen-men of all sorts; and all these are a sort of *Gentlemen-like ways of living*, which intitle them to be called *Masters*, which gives a main temptation both to Parents and Children; who on the other hand, see the *contemptible and miserable condition of* our

our poor Clothworkers, and other ordinary Artificers, who at the best are called *Mechanick Fellows*; and what is yet farther mischievous is, that our Youth thus educated, never reading any thing of Manufacture, Exportation, or Importation, in *Homers and Virgils*, or their Colledge Notes, and being from thence carried to other Studies, which have no cognition with Trade, can ordinarily have no sensation of the advantages of it; like a Bowl which hath a rub at hand, the farther they go, the more they are divided from it; whence it hath unfortunately ensued, that our *Men of Learning* are either generally silent in this matter, or else, being inclin'd to think it the sole concern of the *dirty and servile* part of the People, speak of it with contempt, and some with reflection; by whom most others being influenced, we are still pretending to be more accurate in Logic and Philosophy, (which howsoever otherwise useful, do not add two-pence a year to the Riches of the Nation) we continue to squeeze all the sapless Papers and Fragments of *Antiquity*; we grow mighty well acquainted with the old *Heathen-gods, Towns, and People*; we prize our selves in fruitless Curiosities; we turn our Lice and Fleas into Bulls and Pigs by our *Magnifying-glasses*; we are searching for the World in the Moon with

our *Telescopes*; we send to weigh the Air on the top of *Teneriffe*; we invent *Pacing Saddles*, and Gincracks of all sorts; all which are voted *Ingeniuties*, whilst the *Notions of Trade* are turned into *Ridicule*, or much out of fashion.

In all which we are very short of the Policies of our Neighbours, the *French*, *Dutch*, and other trading and wise Nations; who on the one hand have no Laws or Constitutions to restrain or exclude their People from Manufacture, nor to Ferret them away; and on the other, do consider *Trade* as an *Honorary* and almost *Sacred* thing, and do highly esteem and cherish their Manufacturers, as well as their other necessary Traders.

Now should these restraints and discouragements on our own People and Trade be removed, it would doubtless much advantage our Trade in some time; but would not bring us so sudden an increase of People, Manufacturers, Ships, and Riches, as is highly requisite for the carrying on of a mighty Trade, or perhaps for our National security; nor can these so suddenly be had, but from other parts of the World, where they are moving; Men, Ships, or Riches, do not grow on the Trees, nor yet drop out of the Clouds.

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But we have such another rank of Laws against *Forreigners*, that we are not to hope *Forreigners* will come hither; I mean those which disable *Forreigners* from trading in *England*; therefore we must first have a

Law of general *Naturalization of Protestant-Forreigners*, though to the displeasure of many of our own self-interested ignorant Traders, nor will that do, without a Repeal of the Act of the 5th *Eliz. Cap. 4.* and a complete Regulation of our Trade; for neither Manufacturers or Merchants will remove from their own Countries hither to sit idle; nor will all this bring us over any great Numbers, without some *Toleration* of their *Consciences*, no not of *Foreign Protestants*, who differ much from us in several Points which they think material; all which is demonstrated in Fact by the success of His Majesty's Proclamation at the beginning of our last *Dutch War*; by which *Forreigners*, then under the utmost terrors, were invited to the Liberties and Plenties of *England*; but we see few or none of them came or stay'd with us on this encouragement: In this the *Dutch* have a further advantage upon us, since they

Besides the Common Law these Statutes, 1 R. 3. c. 21 H. 8. 16. 22 H. 8. 13. 32 H. 8. 16. 25 H. 8. 9. 14 H. 8. 3. 4 H. 7. 23. and many others of former date, to which are added 12 Car. 2. 16. 14 Car. 2. 11. and 15 Car. 2. 7.

See Sir William Temple's Book of the Dutch, Chap. the 6th.

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allow free Ports, free Trade, and all other National Freedoms to Forreigners; whereby their People of all sorts, their Navigation and Stocks in Trade, have increased continually.

So are the most considerable *French Ports Free*, (unless for Goods *prohibited*, as in *Holland* some are;) no sooner was *Dunkirke* in the Hands of the *French King*, but he made it a Free Port; so hath he invited all Forreign Artificers into *France*, by granting them as great, or greater Freedoms than his own Subjects enjoy.

There are yet others of our Laws, which must prejudice our Trade of all sorts, and give a farther advantage to the *Dutch* and *French*, I mean those which inflict Penalties on *Protestant Dissenters*; not only because they may hinder the transplanting of Forreign Protestant Artificers, or Merchants, but because they disable many of those we have in *England* already, from carrying on any manner of Trades; and if so, then in effect they are not People, since they cannot answer the ends of People, but are rather the *Trunks and Signs of Men in a Nation*, their Industries and ingenuities being lock'd up; Suppose two or 300000 of our own People disabled, it may be presumed more than a Million *per Annum* loss to the Nation; what then

then may be our loss by the shutting out a far greater number? perhaps ten times the number of Forreign *Protestants*, and those of the richest the most mercantile, and the best Manufacturers of *Europe*.

That this is the Case of dissenting Protestants in *England*, must be very plain to those who shall consider the Statute of 20 l. a month, and those Volumes of other Statutes made before and since the King came in against *Non-Conformists*; most of which were intended against Papists, and occasioned by former Popish Treasons, but reach all Protestant Dissenters, who, besides the bare Penalties, are liable to the daily charge and trouble of *Informations, Actions, and Indictment* in our Courts of Law, and as many or more *Libels and Presentments* in our *Spiritual Courts*; our *Constables, Church-wardens, and Grand-Juries* are upon their Oaths constantly bound to accuse them; if they omit, 'tis at every other Mans pleasure to inform, and some or other will not fail of it; thus are Dissenters brought into the hands of the Officers of both Courts, whose duty it is to prosecute; these may delay for a time, whilst they are paid for their favours, or until notice be taken of it, but no longer, and then must follow a Seizure of Dissenters Persons or Estates, or both: Besides all which, particular Justices of

of the Peace are by several late Statutes authorized and obliged to *Convent, Convict, and make Levies*; which sufferings being accompanied with a continual *Anxiety of mind*, our *Protestant Dissenters* cannot possibly apply themselves or their Stocks to Manufacture or other Trade.

See Sir William Temple, Chap. of Religion.

Whilst, on the other hand, both the *Dutch and French*, and most other of our neighbouring Nations, any thing famous for Trade, allow Liberty of Conscience to *Protestant Dissenters*, at least to such a degree, as to enable them to trade: Which is all that the Interest of Trade requires; 'tis true, that now of late we have heard the *French King* hath given some greater discountenance to *Protestants* than heretofore, (whether to gratify the *Romish Clergy*, who may be otherwise very useful to his present designs, and whom he daily and visibly endears by all signal demonstrations of favour, (if we may believe our Gazets) or for what other reason, I shall not undertake to say) however not so, as to disable the *French Protestants* from Trade.

What farther hardships he may put upon *French Protestants*, or other his Trading Subjects, in case they shall have no other *Asylum* or *Shelter* to repair to, time may shew.

This

This being the Case in the matter of Toleration between us and these our subtle and potent Neighbours, the Question is, what is to be done? A long *Surfeit* of experience hath demonstrated, that the Penal Laws, though accumulated and imbibtered to as great a degree as hath been desired, are not a sufficient expedient to reduce *Protestant Dissenters*. To purpose any thing which shall subvert our present Church of *England*, is that which I shall not do; conceiving it for the honour and safety of the Nation to support a *flourishing* National Church, and that the present *Protestant Church of England* hath in all respects the best Title to it.

On the other side, to rest under our present Disadvantages by the want of a convenient Toleration of Dissenting Protestants, must disable us from making that sudden, and full improvement of our Trade, as otherwise we might, and as perhaps may be found necessary for our support against those *Forreigners* who already do, and daily will more exceed us in *Treasures and People*, if they shall let in, and we continue to shut out, so mighty a share of each.

Here then there seems a difficulty, which deserves and requires our utmost prudentials to clear, by a *Toleration of Protestant Dissenters*, consistent with the preservation of our present

present Church of England in all its Rights; I am perswaded none of the *Generous Dignitaries*, or Members of our Church, would oppose such a Toleration; some there have been, who could never think themselves happy, unless others were miserable, and have loved Cruelty for Cruelty's sake; the most infamous for this was *Phalaris*, who was at last brought to roar in his own *Brazen Bull*; nor is this a time for Men to gratifie their humors or passions this way, if it may prove perilous towards the whole; rather let our Hearts melt with a tender and charitable Commiseration to these our Fellow-Country-men, who by their Birth-right are intitled to *Magna Charta* equally with our selves, but are incapacitated to enjoy the advantages of it, merely for Conscience, when by no other overt Act they have forfeited their Hereditary Claims, when their sufferings undeniably demonstrate they are no *Hypocrites*, and therefore that they suffer for what they *cannot help*; let us observe, that God never planted or propagated his Truth by *Temporal Power*, that he was in the *small Voice*, not in the *Thunder*, or the *Whirl-wind*: Let us consider the *original meekness* of Christians, whose *Anathemas* against Dissenters were only accompanied with *Admonishments*, and meer *Excommunications*, without any *Writ* to take the *Body*,
or

or make Levies on Mens *Estates*; Let us remember that we have slung off the Yoke of *Papal Tyranny*, founded on a pretended infallible conclusive *Church Authority*, superinduced upon Christians by a Conspiracy of *Romish Priests*, as subservient to their Ambition, Pride, Ease, and Luxury; that if persecution were then wholly unwarrantable, it is now far more incoherent. When our present Church professes it self *fallible*, and both our Church, and all Protestant Religion it self, are derived from no other Principle than the Fallibility of all Churches, at least in their Decrees; when our first most famous Protestant Doctors carried on the Reformation in opposition to their National Churches and Laws, such were *Luther*, *Calvin*, *Beza*, and many others abroad, and our *Martyrs* at home, whose Glorious Sufferings are celebrated by one of our own
former and most Learned Mr. Fox.
and Pious Divines, as the chief *Gemms* which truly beautifie our present Church: Let it never be said, that the *Interests* or *Temperaments* of our present Church are *inconsistent* with our National *Wealth*, *Happiness*, and *Security*, or obstruct our progress towards them; this would give too great an advantage to her publick and private Enemies: Let us industriously amass all the just Considerations we
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can to facilitate *these great ends*, by some Toleration of *Protestant Dissenters*, being it is so important, I say of *Protestant Dissenters*, because these having no foreign dependance on the *Pope*, have reason to be endeared and knit up to the National Interest by the common protection and security of their Estates and Families, equally with the rest: As for the *Popish Party*, I am confident that after so many late accurate Treatises, and Authentick Narratives, of the dangerous Principles, and horrid treasonable Practises, of the Priests, and others of the same Party, none will think it necessary, or possible, that I should add one syllable to prove that Party unfit for a Toleration.

Such being the high Motives to make us wish for a Toleration of *Protestant Dissenters*, I shall, with all deference to Authority, and without any of those passionate reflections which usually inumber this debate, briefly endeavour to examine the dangers objected, which are,

First, an apprehension of a necessary great *increase of Dissenters*, and this (as *some* will have it) to such a degree, as to swallow up the present Church; a very strange *supposition* for those who have *Scripture* and *Antiquity* on their side: On the contrary, it may be justly hoped, that the *Church of England* may then reconcile all those whom *Penalties* cannot

not reduce; and the rather, because when the *Penalties* are gone, all Parties must resort to *reasoning* and *sanctity*, which are the proper and only means of making Impressions on Mens *Understandings* and *Consciences*; *Penalties* may bring in *Archebishops* and *Hypocrites*, but can never work a real change in any Mans *opinion*, unless when the sufferings of Dissenters profelyte others, (being a kind of Argument of the truth of what is so asserted, at least amongst the vulgar or middle sort;) our present *Protestant Church of England* must therefore have an advantage this way; and yet on the other side, will retain that of being vindicated by the Government, in as much as all publick *Divine Service* in the Parish Churches will remain in the form now used in our *present Church*, and all *Church preferments* inclosed to the Clergy of the same Church; which Priviledges, being consistent with a Toleration, may continue secured to our Church by our present Penal Laws in force for that purpose, with an addition of such others as may be thought necessary; whence it will follow;

Dr. *Heylin* observes, that after the Toleration of Protestants in France, the other Party in Religion having the countenance of the State, and the Prescription and Possession of so many years to confirm the same, is in as prosperous a condition, both for Power and Patrimony, as any that acknowledge the Authority of the Popes of *Rome*. *Geogr.* 176.

first,

first, that it will be more for the *ease* and *convenience*, nay and Interest of the Laicks to conform, rather than to seek farther for Dissenting Conventicles, whose Ministers they must help to maintain; which *Convenience*, with the *Countenance* of *Authority* given to the National Church, is a great matter, since it will bring in all those, who being good Christians in the main, are yet little affected with the Points in difference, which are the *generality*, as may be seen by their equal resort to the Parish Churches before and since His Majesties Restoration. But secondly, it will then be yet more the interest and advantage of all Clergy-men to conform, by the great and *Honourable preferments* they may this way hope for, which they cannot otherwise obtain.

The other grand Objection against a Toleration of *Protestants*, is the danger of the Temporal Government; which seems yet stranger than the other, if we consult our *Reasons*, which must tell us, that Men at *ease* will be better satisfied than when in *pain*; that Men who are kept innocently and profitably *busy*, who by their Industry can live well, support their Families, and gain Estates, will be less apt to study, or do mischief to the Publick, than those, who being disabled from all such Employments, are daily

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daily goaded with penal Laws, a condition which perhaps may be thought more grievous in *England* than the like hardships in *Turky* and *Muscovy*, where all suffer alike, when in *England* our Protestant Dissenters hear much of *Magna Charta*; and see others enjoy the full fruit of it, but are precluded themselves, and this for meer differings in Religions belief. But why should I labour to evince that which *Experience* hath demonstrated; we have the great Instance of *France*; and the like in the Kingdom of *Poland*, in *Holland*, *Switzerland*, *Hamburg*; and other parts of *Germany*; All which Nations have been at peace, at least about Religion ever since the Tolerations given, as some of them could never be before, particularly *France*; which must appear to proceed from the *passive* virtue of Toleration, not from the *coercive* power of *Standing Forces*, or *despotic Monarchy*, as some would have it, because that of *Poland* is regulated, and the rest are *Republicks*. 'Tis notorious that before the *French* Toleration many of that National Church had or pretended to have as fearful Apprehensions of the effects of it; but we see what Councils did prevail even amongst the *Papish Party*, and what hath followed? We find *France* the most powerful of Nations, and the *French King* so confident of his

Protestants, that he long intrusted his mighty Armies, in the hands of *Monsieur Turenne*, a *Protestant* till near his death: On the other side we have the Example of *Spain*, whose execrable and inexorable Cruelties towards dissenters hath mainly Assisted in the present poverty and weakness of that Nation: We may then conclude that Persecution is a stale piece of policy, which perhaps might have born a debate in *Harry the 8th's time*, but is now tried to our hands: And let any man judg whether the *French* or *Spanish Church* be now most flourishing, or most likely to continue; the *French Church* and Church-men will certainly get ground with the *French Victories*, for which they are as much beholding to the *French Protestants* as to the rest. Let us not therefore be wholly insensible that the Church of *England* may fall under the worst circumstances of danger, otherwise than from *Protestant* Dissenters; as suppose *England* should ever be reduced to such a condition as to be no longer able to bear up against foreign Powers, what then would become of our present Church & what sort of men would then push into our *Bishopricks*, *Deaneries*, and other Church-Preferments? a Fatality which we ought therefore to provide against by a Union of *Protestant* interests and affections and increase of Traders, as far as safely we may; in which

Foreigners

Foreigners are grown so nicely vigilant, that not long ago we might observe the policies of the great *French King* and the great *Duke of Tuscany* curiously Angling for the *Jews*; for when the *French King* had made *Marseilles* a free Port (which was about 12 years since) the *Jews* planted at *Leghorn*, induced by an offer of protection at *Marseilles*, and a sweeter situation of that place, resolved to transplant, which the Great *Duke* discovering, applied his utmost endeavours to prevent it; which he did by making an Edict, That if any Christian bought a *Jews* house, it should be forfeit. In *England* a *Jew* cannot buy a house. I am no Advocate for Dissenters or *Jews*, but for the Common Interest of *England*, by which that of the Church of *England* must stand or fall. And being now speaking of somewhat that concerns Religion, there occur to my memory two plain Texts of Scripture, one is, *that of two evils we are to choose the least*, and another that a *Kingdom divided cannot stand*. I shall desire the Reader to couple these considerations with what I shall say in the following Sections concerning the present posture of this and our Neighbour Nations, and then he will not accuse me of having made an unnecessary digression.

Whilst we are calculating the best expedient to bring in *forreign* Protestant Artificers,

I 2 and

and *forreign Manufacture*, it is fit that notice should be taken of that Clause in the Act of 21 of King *James* chap. 3. which leaves the Inventers of new Manufactures at liberty to obtain *Patents* for *Monopolies* for one and twenty years, which Statute being in *construction* extended to all Manufactures already used by *Forreigners* that are not used here, hinders the introducing, or growth and perfection of any new *forreign Manufactures*, and makes it the business of our more observant Travellers to look after *Monopolies*.

This is no question but several other obstructions to the Trade of *England* might be observed, particularly that the carrying on of *Elections* in Corporations of latter years with so much drinking, is very prejudicial to our Manufactures; for men (upon this or any other occasion) being once *debauched*, hardly ever retrieve themselves, and therefore lost to Manufacture and the Nation.

Our Fishers have complained that in several parts they are forced to pay *Tyth* for the *Fish* they catch on their own Coasts, in which the *Dutch* and other Fishermen have the advantage to the value of the Fish, and must therefore disable our Trade of Fishery in those parts.

It hath also been noted that the payment of *Tyth* out of our *Hemp* and *Flax*, does as much disable the increase of *Hemp* and *Flax* in *Eng-*
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land, the rest being made so much the dearer to the owner, that it is not vendible, as otherwise it would be, and thereby prevent our great *forreign* Importation of *Hemp* and *Flax*. These being things of so great Importance to the Nation, may deserve a full Examination and remedy, whatsoever the particular interests of some Incumbents of Churches may suggest to the contrary.

Lastly, we have a farther complaint from the Traders of all sorts, of the tedious and chargeable proceedings in some Courts of Justice, occasioned by *Writs of Error*, and *Suits in Chancery*, in which last Court many are hung up for seven years and more, and are forced to expend much more than the money they justly sue for: Our little Courts, especially about *London*, are as destructive to poor Seamen, Manufacturers and other laborious people, where in a Suit for a disputable Groat, or meer malice, they are easily lead in, or forced to spend three or four pound; if but thirty or forty shillings tis enough to ruine such poor wretches and their Families, which hath caused many thousands to perish in Goals, or fly from their Habitations and Countrey, since the erection of several new inferior Jurisdictions.

Here again we may look back and observe the mischievous effects of private and mistaken
I 3 interests,

Interests, pride and humor; which I shall not recapitulate, but should here conclude this Section; but that having mentioned the *greatness* of our Customs amongst the Incumbrances on our Trade, I am willing to clear my self from insinuating or wishing any Diminution of His Majesties Revenue; nor would the moderation of the Customs work any such effect, (at least in the Judgments of wise men who have considered it) were the other obstructions on our Trade regulated; of this Sir *Walter Raleigh* took notice of very early in his Observations upon Trade, presented to *King James*, in these words.

‘Of this their smallness of Custom, (meaning in *Holland*, *Hamburgh*, &c.) inwards and outwards, we have daily experience; for if two *English* Ships, or two of any other Nation, be at *Burdeaux*, both laden with Wine of 300 Tun apiece, the one bound for *Holland*, or any other the *Petit States*, the other for *England*; the Merchant shall pay above 900 *l*. here, and other duties, when the other in *Holland*, or any other *Petit State* shall be cleared for 50 *l*. and so in all other Wares and Merchandizes accordingly; which draws all Nations to traffick with them; and although it seems but small duties which they receive, yet the multitudes of all kind of Commodities and Coin that is brought there.

‘there, and carried out by themselves and others, is so great, that they receive more Customs and Duties to the State by the greatness of their Commerce in one year, than *England* doth in two years; for the 10000 part of the Commodities are not spent in *Holland*, but vented into other Countries; which make all the Country-Merchants to buy and sell, and increase Ships and Mariners to transport them.

‘My travels and meaning is not, neither hath been, to diminish your Majesties Revenues, but exceedingly to increase them, &c.

‘All Nations may buy and sell freely in *France*, and there is free Custome outwards twice a year; at which times our Merchants do there make their Sales of *English* Commodities, and do buy and lade their Bulk with *French* Commodities to serve for the whole year; and in *Rochel* in *France*, and in *Brittain*, free Custom all the year long; except some small Toll, which makes free Traffick, and makes them flourish.

To this he adds an Instance in *Genova*, formerly the Store-house of *Italy*: But after they had set a Custom of 16 per Cent. all Nations left trading with them; but that on the other side, the *Duke of Florence*, by setting a small Custom at *Leghorn*, had brought all the Trade thither: Thus did this great Man of his time express himself, I 4 But

But admitting, that by the moderation of our Customs Rates, our present publick Revenue in Customs should be somewhat sunk; yet how easily might this Revenue be made good by a Land-Tax, or by some *Excise* upon Extravagancies, and Forreign consumptive Commodities spent at home, without the least prejudice to Trade? Thus do the *Dutch* raise far more than the Revenue of our Customs; and if by this means the private Revenue of our Land must universally rise, and the People better be enabled to pay any other Taxes, why should the Land-holders, or any on pretence of Service to His Majesty, oppose it? Suppose His Majesty had a Customs of 5*s.* in the Pound on all the *English* Treasure exported, would any Man for the sake of the Custom, and out of zeal to His Majesties Interest, promote the Exportation of all the *English* Treasure? How much this is the Case of the present *English* Customs, doth, and more largely will appear.

Certainly it was very unfortunate for *England*. That when Sir *Walter Raleigh* wrote these and other his excellent Observations on Trade, our Councils were under an earnest pursuit of the *Plantation-Trade*, on which great Customs were projected; for so it hath hapned, that whilst our Neighbour Nations have been vigilant to ease and facilitate their ways

ways of Trade, the Trade of *England* hath continued under the former disadvantage, and is incumbered with new charges and difficulties of later years; all which in Conjunction have worked us out in all the Particulars mentioned before, and in divers others; and in recompence of these losses, our *Plantation-Trade* hath robbed and prevented us of some Millions of our People; amongst which very many being, or might have been Manufacturers, the Nation hath also lost many more Millions of Pounds in the loss of their Manufactures.

S E C T. VIII.

That a Nation may grow poor by Forreign Trade, viz. by an excess of meer Importations, illustrated by some Observations; this facilitated by exporting Money or Bullion; the fatal Consequences and Symptoms of a Consumptive Trade; decay of Manufactures, other ways of living over-stocked, fall of Rents, general Poverty, an increase of Criminals of all sorts, Depopulation; some Application to the present Case of England, and amongst others the occasion of the new Buildings about London; of Incontinency, Curing, &c.

As a Nation may grow Rich and Populous, and consequently strong by Forreign Trade; so may a Nation grow poor and dispeopled

peopled, and consequently weak by Foreign Trade; nor is there any possible or practicable way for the Treasure of a Nation in peace, to be exhausted and exported into another Nation to any considerable and sensible degree, but by Foreign Trade.

This must necessarily happen by the excess of *meer Importation*, viz. when the Commodities imported from abroad, and spent at home, do cost more than the National gain by Trade amounts to; as suppose such yearly Importations into *England* should cost two Millions, and the National gain by Exportations or otherwise should amount but to 1500000 *l.* the Nation of *England* must yearly lose 500000 *l.* of its Treasure by Trade, because so much must yearly be exported by the *English* Merchants to satisfy the over-balance.

That the *English* Trade might fall into such a Consumption, is easily and highly credible.

For suppose the utmost neat gain of our former *English* Trade amounted to but 300000 *l.* per *An* one year with another; then if the Exportations and beneficial Merchandize of *England* should become worse by 400000 *l.* per *An* one year with another than before, the Nation of *England* must lose 100000 *l.* per *An* of its National Treasure, though our yearly Importations be no more in value than before; whence it appears, that by this means

Foreign Trade, by Exportation, &c. 123
means the same Importations may become excessive.

So though our Exportations, and the beneficial part of our Merchandize, continue as valuable as before, yet if our yearly Consumptive Importations grow to be more in value by 400000 *l.* per *An* than before, the Nation must also in this case lose 100000 *l.* per *An* by Trade.

But what if both the beneficial part of the Trade grow worse, and also the Importations increase? Certainly this must cut deepest on the National Stock, and must soonest grind it out; for then if the beneficial part grow worse by 400000 *l.* and the Importing part be increased 400000 *l.* per *An* value, the Nation must then lose 500000 *l.* per *Annum*; or suppose but to half those values in each, the Nation must lose 100000 *l.* per *Annum*.

To accommodate these Hypotheses to *England*; first, we may conclude, that the beneficial part of our Trade hath grown much less and worse yearly, by reason of the unequal clogs and difficulties on our Home and Foreign Trade.

And that on the other side our Importations must as necessarily be increased, both by the decay of our own former Manufactures at home, and by our modern gawd'ry and affectation

fectionation of foreign Goods; and as our Trade from Port to Port hath become more Impracticable to any advantage, the Exporters of our remaining Manufactures and other home-Commodities, must either come back empty, or else must freight themselves homewards with such consumptive foreign Commodities, as for Gawdry, Novelty, Cheapness, or Lyquorishness, will dazle, tempt and bewitch our People to buy them; in which course of Trade our Merchants may gain considerable proportions of our remaining Treasures as long as there is any in the Nation.

Nay, rather than sit idle, they will, and do freight themselves outwards with meer Ballast and *Bills of Exchange* (by which the Importation of foreign Bullion or money is prevented:) or if Bills of Exchange cannot reasonably be had (as they usually cannot to those Countries where we are overballanced in Trade) then they export Money and Bullion, and buy and import Consumptive Goods which are spent at home; which kind of Trade deserves rather to be called *Foreign Pedling*, than Merchandise.

See Mr. Man of Foreign Trade, Chap. 12. p. 83, to 92. and that the overballance of Trade in any particular Country, causes the Exchange to be high, so that the exporting of money shall save the Merchant 10 l. per cent or more, as the exchange is.

It

It may partly be remembred here, how much the beneficial part of our Trade may be prejudiced by the loss of 100000 of our Manufactures, and what odds the same loss may produce in our Importations, since if they get but 6 l. *per Ann.* a peice, it must sink the former gain by Trade no less than 600000 l. *per Ann.*

And on the other side, that if a *Million* of Families or Persons in a Nation, do one with the other consume to the value of 20 s. a piece more, yearly in foreign Manufactures, Drinks, &c. than before, this must increase our Importations to the value of a *Million per Ann.* which I observe here to shew how imperceptibly an over-balance of Importation may creep upon a Nation; and that the Reader may with the less difficulty conjecture at the late and present ballance of Trade in *England*.

It must also much assist this Importing Trade, if the Merchants shall export Money, or Bullion; especially in such a Nation as *England*, where a Trade from Port to Port is not ordinarily practicable to any advantage: for in that Case the Goods Imported being spent at home, the Treasure Exported must be lost to the Nation; and as long as the English Merchant can have Bullion or Money to Export, and can have a vent for his Importations

portations at home, his private gain will never oblige him to complain of the want of Exportable home-Manufactures, or the Clogs upon Trade, especially in *England*, where our Merchants have such a *Monopoly* of their Importations on the rest of the People.

This Consumptive Importing Trade must be of very fatal Consequence in its Nature; for first, whilst the National Stock is greater, it will exhaust the Treasure almost *insensibly*; but as the Treasure grows less and less, it will work more *palpably and grievously*, because it will consume more and more of that little which remains.

And as the National Treasure comes to be more and more diminished, the People must generally have less and less, which must cause the price of all home-Commodities, and consequently *Land-Rents* to fall continually, the home Manufactures must be choaked and stifled by Importations, so that both the Farmers and Manufacturers must sling up; the values of their Stocks must be contracted, and will be eaten out by Rent, Wages and other standing charges before they are aware; men cannot provide against misfortunes which have unseen Causes: and as home trade grows worse and worse, Industry it self must be tired and foiled, to the great amazement, as well as affliction of the People.

For

For at the same time *Liberty and Property* may remain inviolated, many Merchants shall grow rich and shall be well satisfied as long as there is *Vanity and Money* at home; so shall their *Recruiters and Salesmen* of foreign Wares, such are *Mercers, Lacemen, Linnen-Drapers, Exchange-men, Grocers, Vintners* and most others; there may seem to be the same *Navigation* for a time, the *Customs* must also necessarily much increase as the Importations increase (especially in *England* where the Customs on Importations are so high) and by that means may cause a reputation and sound of Trade amongst many, when indeed such a swelling of the Customs does only denounce their growing poverty and ruine.

It may be these ranks of men, who stand not in the direct Channel of Trade, may seem to flourish for a time, as *Officers, Lawyers, Physicians*, and others; nay perhaps some *Officers* may have greater opportunities of gain during the first Convulsions of a growing Poverty; since the necessities of men obliging them to be more Criminous, it may for a while occasion greater and more frequent gratuities, and a more absolute subservience; so may many Lawyers get more than ever whilst mens Estates are rending to pieces, (as doubtless did some Bricklayers get Estates by the

the burning of the City) So perhaps sickly men whilst they can, may strait hard to secure the Faith and Care of their Physicians with as good Fees as before, so some Clergy-men Scriveners and Pen-men of all sorts, Usurers and such others may seem to stem the torrent better than the Landholders and Manufacturers, whose Revenues immediately depend on the home-market, and who make up the gross body and strength of a Nation, many of these former ranks of men (being at ease themselves) may seem insensible of the Common Afflictions, but must be gradually involved with the rest.

And the sooner, because as men fling up their Farms and Manufactures, and others are discouraged, multitudes of those that want Employments, observing what other sorts of men continue to live at some ease, will naturally and inevitably throng themselves into the like, *viz. importing Merchandise, Retayling, Shop-keeping, the Law, Clergy, and Priesthood of all sorts, Offices, Scrivening, Solliciting, and Physick*; by which these Employments must be so over-clogged, that they will be hardly able to live by one another; vast numbers of others must betake themselves to *Inn-keeping, Ale-keeping, Vintyaline, &c.* and those who have little or no stocks or literature, and therefore cannot crowd

crowd themselves into some of these ways of Livelihood must lye on the Parish, or being higher or worse minded must fall to *Cheating, Canting, Shifting, Perjury, Forgery, Whoredom, Sherking, Chipping, Copping, Buffooning, Tumbling, Pimping, Pilfering, Robbery, &c.* for their ordinary maintenances; the more honest or industrious will transport themselves into *foreign parts*, as soon as they have opportunity, rather than live miserable at home, especially if they have an *Ireland and Plantations* to go to; nor is it possible (as I conceive) for any Laws or Penalties effectually to restrain the swelling numbers of any of the former professions, but by opening the beneficial and Comprehensive Employments of Manufactures, Farming, &c. nor can the daily increase of Ale-houses, or of Frauds, Perjuries and Criminals of all sorts be otherwise corrected; *no Statutes, nay, or Preaching*, though never so learned or florid, can prevail with necessitous men.

But the increase of these former more Gentleman-like, Scholar-like, Retailing and Shopkeeping-Employments, must yet bring a farther inconvenience, *viz. a more general affectation of Finery and Gaudery* than before; for these being sedentary and ealie professions, will not only admit of, but oc-

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casion greater curiosity in Apparel, Modes, and dresses than the active and laborious ways of living by Farming or Manufactures. And as this Gaudery grows more in use it will spread amongst the rest, and the People emulating one another, will be gawdy as long as they can, though never *so poor*; which must support and increase Foreign Importations, whilst every one is contending who shall have the *finest Foreign Livestock*, so will People thus at leisure most naturally fall into the habits of *drinking* and other ill Courses.

Too many of these symptoms of a Consumptive Trade may be generally observed in *England*; of late years any man who had but an indifferent Stock might have set himself to *Tillage, Grazing, Dairy, Cloathing, Fulling, &c.* in almost any part of *England*, and might not only have maintained his Family plentifully, but as his Sock and Ingenuity were more or less, might have left a fair Estate behind him; it was not extraordinary for a man thus employed to get an Estate of 3, or 4000 *l.* some 10, some 20, some 30000 *l.* whereas now, and of these later years these home-employments have been the usual Shipwracks of mens Stocks and Estates in most parts of *England*, or so dull and cold that men can hardly endure to live so meanly.

Our

Our *Late Wealthy Yeomanry* are impoverished, or much reduced in their stocks, a man shall hardly find three in a County able to rent 3, or 400 *l. per Ann.* they are forced to *sink their Rents* on the Gentry continually, or else to *sing up their Farms*; much Land is fallen a fifth part, some a fourth part, some a third part, some to half of the late Rent, (unless in some few Counties in whose benefit the *Irish Acts* were made, and there Rents are not risen and are now like to fall low enough:) by which continual contracting of Rents the very earth seems to shrink and consume under us, and whilst many of our *late opulent and mighty Gentry* since the general decay of their Revenues have been striving to support the ancient honour and dignity of their Families, they are become immersed and fettered in inextricable debts and securities; great numbers of our *Clothiers* and other Manufacturers are undone, or have given up; the rest remain under a languishing hope of better Markers: and multitudes of those people, whose Labours brought Money, Trade and Comfort to our Corporations, are now become chargeable burthens: it being computed that our *Poor* are increased to near ten times their late number within this last twenty years, and that their maintenance doth

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colt

132 *A Nation may grow poor by*
cost the Nation 400000 *l.* per Ann. constant
Tax.

On the other side, the increase of those
sorts of men, whose Employments either
may prejudice, or else can add no increase
of Treasure to the Nation, is very visible;
by which increase the inconveniencies
must be still the greater: for where the foreign
Trade of a Nation is so much driven in
importations, the increase of *Merchants* will
oblige an increase of Importation; so an increase
of *Retailers* dealing in foreign Goods,
will open a greater vent for Importations;
suppose such a Retailer sells for 10 *l.* per Cent.
profit, the Nation must lose about nine pence
for every penny he gets, what then shall the
Nation lose by the Trade of a Merchant or
Retailer, who by *vending Foreign Wares* shall
get an Estate of 10, or 2000 *l.* over and be-
sides a profuse maintenance? Or what will
it signify to the Wealth or Glory of a Na-
tion, or City, to have many such 10000 *l.* men
as these? Have we any reason to rejoyce in
such a flourishing Trade? These Retailers and
Shop-keepers, gleaning the Money from the
People, hand it up to the *Importers*, who
export this *Commodity in Trade* as occasion
does require; and as our Manufactures have
decayed, so have *Shop-keepers* of all sorts in-
creased; our Cities and Corporations are
stuf-

Forreign Trade, by Exportation, &c. 133

stuffed with them more and more; there
being at least ten times more in the Nation
than were 20, or 30 years since.

Thus also have we multitudes of more
Lawyers, Attorneys, Solicitors, Scriviners, and
Pen-men of all sorts, than of late years we
had; which occasions more *Querks, Tricks,*
and Cheats in the Law. We have vastly
more *Scholars and Clergy-*

men, which a Late Author
observing, thought it ne-
cessary to export *Tunns of*
Divines instead of Manu-
facture: This does cause an universal compe-
tition for Benefices; of which the needy
Laity taking advantage, make Simonaical
presentations, and thence must follow perju-
ry in Institutions, and thence feared Con-
sciences; but of all other Employments we
have the greatest questing after *Offices*; Men
will almost give any thing, say any thing,
or do any thing for an Office; so that some
Offices which were thought hardly worth
the meddling with of late years, will now
yeild near ten years purchase for one life,
which competition hath also in a manner
virtually repealed the Statute against buying
and selling of Offices, and obliges those who
buy trusts to sell trusts. We have also far
more *Physitians, men of Medicine and*

Author of the grounds
and reasons of the con-
tempt of the English
Clergy. pag. 141.

K 3

Quacks,

Quacks, especially *Pox-Doctors* than ever, fo have we (with our poverty) far more *Flinery and Gawdery*, more *Daintynesse, Delicacy and Luxury*.

So have we a vast increase of *Inn-keepers and Ale-keepers* both in City and Country, by which the common-people are debauched, made impious, poor and effeminate: all which mischiefs do in union cause the vast increase of *new Buildings* in and about *London*; for most of the Offices are in *London*, or there to be gotten, there is also the ready access to Church-preferment, and the best and most easie Employments for Lawyers, Solicitors, Scriviners, Physitians, and such others, and the rather, because the publick Taxes and Importing-trade drawing the mony up to *London*, it will there be stirring as long as we have any in the Nation; whilst the Country is left poorer and barer every day; and therefore besides these higher ranks of men, the ordinary People who used heretofore to begin upon Farming or Manufacture, hearing of *mony in London*, do post from the starving Country, and apply themselves to the selling of Ale, Brandy, Tobacco, Coffee, Brokery of all sorts, letting of Lodgings in or about *London*, and such like Employments, which too commonly end in Bawdery and the Gallows, by which there is

is room made for new Comers and Tenants; I have heard it said, that *Madrid* is grown much bigger and more Populous of late years.

From these and other sorts of People, both in City and Country, we have more and more *Criminals* of all the sorts and species mentioned before; our Goals are fuller and fuller, great numbers of which are yearly executed or transported; vast numbers of others have betaken themselves to voluntary exile from this their Native Country, in hopes of a better condition, rather than to endure certain poverty or persecution for Conscience at home; besides those gone into *Ireland*, and the *Plantations*, there are many thousands of Protestants gone from us into the *Low Countries*, into *France*, into *Germany*, and into *Poland*, where being Woollen Manufacturers, they have taught, and set up this Manufacture, and thereby helped to work our ruine. These being of the most strong and able part of our People, leave their Wives and Children, and other impotent and lazy People at home.

And thus shall a Nation be inevitably *dispeopled*, as well as impoverished by a consumptive Trade; Nay, it shall hinder the ordinary increase of People by procreation, especially in a Nation where *venereal sins* are

become general, habitual and shameless; for the People being poor, or vicious, or both, dare not, or care not to engage in the charge or virtuous Obligations of *Marriage*, (unless here and there where a man gets a Catch with a Wife which shall be equal to an Office,) but will rather use unlawful *promiscuous Copulation*, which breeds no Children, but infinite *Claps and Poxes* to the common weakening of Posterity, and present scandal of a Nation: (thus have our Women also lost their choice of Chapmen for *Husbands*;) how many of our most beautiful Women (which might have made good and virtuous Wives, and brought forth numbers of as beautiful Children,) are for want of convenient Matches tempted, or forced for a little money, to sell their souls to the Devil, and their delicate bodies to lust and rottenness, nay to the Gallows, when proving with Child, the remains of their natural modesty, will not in their extremities permit them to call Witnesses of their shame whilst the *Gallants* which beget them go free, and glory in their great performance.

All which mischiefs of a consumptive Trade are yet more fatal, because the growing vice and poverty which attends it, will generally bring a languor and difficulty on mens understandings; as men sink in their Estates,

Estates, their Spirits and Thoughts will be lower and narrower, and their Minds clouded with anxieties and cares, this (with the common disability of making advantages upon Forreigners in the course of Trade) leads them into a kind of unhappy *Cunning*, consisting in the over-reaching of one another at home; and he will be accounted wise, who by any means can shift himself out of the common wants, nor will he think his own happiness final, (*especially if his beginnings were low*) when (like one standing on the Sands) he can behold the Shipwrack of others.

S E C T. IX.

That a Consumptive Trade must render a Nation still weaker and weaker: How far the meer establishment of Absolute Power, or meer Liberty and Property, may alter the Case.

FROM what hath been said in the first Section and since, it must also follow, that a *Consumptive Trade* must render a *Nation* still weaker and weaker.

First, because it must still exhaust more and more of the National Riches, and sink the value of Mens Estates.

If the value of private Stocks or Revenues are contracted, Men will be less and less able to pay publick *Taxes*; it is impossible for these that

that have no Money to pay Money, or for those that have less to pay as much as those that have more; and less Taxes must then also be more grievous than greater were before; if a Man having 100 *l. per An'* or 100 *l.* Stock, sink 40 *l. per Cent.* of his Revenue or Stock, it is equal to any direct Tax of 40 *l. per Cent.* and then if a Tax or publick Charge of 5 or 10 *l.* be super-added, it is equal to a former Tax of 45 or 50 *l. per Cent.*

It must also disable a Nation to continue the Charge of a War, because the quantity of Money diffused amongst the People will sooner be drawn out of the Home-Markets; and then they can no longer raise Taxes, and when the Taxes fail, what hope or dependance can there be in the courage of Officers, Soldiers, or Sea-men? or how shall the continual Supplies of Warlike Provisions of all sorts be purchased at home or abroad?

There are yet other Concomitants of a growing Poverty, which must render any Nation much the weaker, *viz. discontents, uneasiness, and heart-burnings*, which when begun, are easily fermented into *Convulsions*, by which a Nation may be disabled to exert even its remaining strength.

2. *Perfidy and Treachery* amongst all sorts; needy Men are readily tempted to make a Merchandize of their own Souls and other
Mens

Mens Lives and Estates, and those who will betray one another for Money at home, will be equally wrought upon by foreign Money, and then may be brought to barter of both Princes and Countries; for being once corrupted, they must, *like Women*, for ever remain slavishly true to the Intrigue, lest the *Gallant* should tell, of which Histories give us many sad Examples.

But in a Nation where the value of Land, or Home-Commodities, are risen 40 *per Cent.* he that had 100 *l.* Revenue or Stock, paying 40 *l.* Tax, retains what he had; and if the National Treasure be much greater, it will support the charge of a War much longer, and can hardly ever be totally exhausted, where there is a considerable Annual Increase of Treasure by Foreign Trade: This exuberance of a National Treasure will also generally support and secure the Spirit and Fidelity of all sorts of Men.

It must therefore be of most dangerous consequence to a Nation impoverished by Trade, if any other neighbour-Nation hath at the same time grown much richer in Treasure, since in the case of a War it will produce the like inequality of Power; nay if any such richer Nation shall think fit to keep great Armies and Navies in pay, (though in times of Peace) so must the poorer Nation,
or

or else be devoured at pleasure; and thus may a Nation, drained by the over-balance of Trade, be beggered, and consequently overcome without fighting, as hath been intimated before.

So if a Nation grow generally more vitious, soft, effeminate, debauched, dispeopled, and undisciplined than before, it must be much weaker than before, wherein the danger must be much greater if any neighbour Nation grow far more warlike, more populous and better disciplined than before.

In which case the better situated, more useful, strong, plentiful, and blessed the Country so impoverished naturally is, and the more it doth abound in beautiful Buildings, Women, or other delicacies, it will the more forcibly provoke the Appetite of a stronger Nation to its Conquest, the mighty *Hunters* of the World are for the most desirable prey; so if a Nation thus weakened hath formerly been famous and redoubled for Arms and War; those who affect glory by Conquest, must have the greater Ambition to vassalize its People.

From what hath been said it must appear; first, That a Nation must be estimated *weak or strong by comparison*, with the strength or weakness of Neighbour Nations; if a Neighbour Nation grow ten times as strong as before,

fore, the Nation which only retains its usual and former strength is *weak*; but the Case must be yet worse, if whilst the one hath grown *ten times stronger*, the other hath grown *much weaker*.

2. That in the present state of the World a Nation cannot grow poor by a consumptive Trade with any Security.

In such a Case the *meer absoluteness* of a *Monarchy* would not prevent the approaching fatality, (which I add because *Hobbs* and others call it a strong Government) absolute Power may suddenly force away that Treasure which the People have, but cannot *create* any, nor can it carry on a War, or even *support it self* without continual *vast expenses*; and then when the Treasure is drawn off into the hands of Officers and Soldiers, (who pay no Taxes) it will be found, that the People (who have it not) can no more make Brick without Straw in this Age, than heretofore; and will be naturally desirous to change their Matters upon hope to be treated with less rigor.

Nor on the other side will the meer preservation of a *legal Liberty and Property* secure a Nation thus impoverished, without a concurrent improvement of Trade, for the Reasons before given; the Blessings which usually attend these Freedoms wholly, or
very

142 *A Consumptive Trade weakens a Nation;*
very much depend upon the Riches the People are possessed of.

It must be confessed these Freedoms make a necessary step towards the improvement of Trade; where an absolute Power is exerted, the conditions of Men are little better than that of Brutes, being continually lyable to Imprisonments, Death, and Confiscations, at the Pleasure of others; nay perhaps are worse, by the fears and terrors Men must be always under, even whilst they do not actually suffer; which will take away the edge and life of Industry, and will ruine or drive away the Merchants, and those who have Stocks in Manufacture, who neither will, nor can labour all their lives for Wealth under daily expectations of losing what they painfully get, which in this last Age hath obliged the *French* Monarchy to permit divers Immunities to their Manufacturers, and of late to their Fishers and other Maritime Traders, which have now gotten the reputation of established Laws; at least they are such as are satisfactory to the *French* Natives, who cannot have, nor are acquainted with better terms, and who are of themselves so numerous, that they stand in no need of Supplies of People from abroad; and therefore of no greater invitations of this nature to bring in Forreigners, and the rather, because their

Of Absolute Power, Liberty, &c. 143

Trade is otherwise so much eased and encouraged, (of which I shall have occasion to say more;) so have the great *Dukes of Tuscany* in this last Age been curiously vigilant to provide for the Freedom of Traders, both Domestick and Forreign: The *Dutch*, *Venetians*, *Hamburgers*, and other Trading States do yet farther secure the Liberties and Properties of their Natives, and others, under their several Jurisdictions, by fundamental and unalterable Constitutions

Which being admitted, it doth not follow that a Nation which hath meer Liberty and Property, without other requisite encouragements, shall drive any great Trade; we have an Example in *Genoa*, at this day, a *Republick*, where, because they set a Custom of 16 per Cent. on Goods Imported, they lost their Trade of Forreign Merchandize to *Leghorne*, made a free Port by the *Duke of Tuscany*; what then may we hope for from the meer Liberty and Property of the *English*, when in *England* the Customs are generally higher, and our other difficulties on Trade are yet more grievous than the Customs? by the Account we have from our first Discoverers and Planters in *America*, most of these poor Nations had a Home-Liberty and Property.

SECT.

S E C T. X.

Further presumptions of our late National Over-balance in Trade; an Account from the Mint in November 75. and thence our former Balance of Trade estimated.

As a further Evidence that our National Trade hath been *Consumptive*, and that I may silence the prevarications of some whose private Interest or Passions (which are but the fermentations of their Interests) teach them to affirm the contrary, I shall take notice of the following Accompt taken and Printed in November 1675. for the clearing a Debate then before a Committee of Parliament, intituled as followeth.

An Account of all the Gold and Silver Coined in His Majesties Mint within the Tower of London, from the first of October 1599. being the forty first year of the Reign of Queen Eliz. to November 1675. being 76 years, divided into four parts; shewing how the Coin of this Kingdom did increase in the three first parts, proportionable to the increase of Trade and Navigation, and how much it hath decreased in the fourth part.

Gold

Gold and Silver Coined. Totals by Talc. Yearly Medium.

From the first of Octob. 1599. to the last of March 1619. was Coined four Millions seven Hundred seventy nine Thousand three Hundred and fourteen Pounds thirteen Shillings and four Pence; which was per An^o two Hundred forty five Thousand ninety two Pounds Eleven Shillings & six Pence.

	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
4779314	13	4	24	5092	11	04

From the last of March 1619. to the last of March 1638. was Coined six Millions nine Hundred thousand forty two Pounds eleven Shillings and one Penny; which was per An^o three Hundred sixty three thousand one hundred & sixty Pounds two Shillings one Penny farthing.

6900042	11	1	36	160	02	14
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From the last of March 1638. to May 1657. was Coined seven Millions seven Hundred thirty three Thousand five Hundred twenty one Pounds

L

thirteen

Gold and Silver Coined. | Totals by Tale. | Yearly Medium.

thirteen Shillings four pence farthing; which was per An^o four Hundred and seven thousand and twenty seven Pounds nine Shillings one Penny $\frac{1}{2}$ penny.

From May 1657. to Nov. 75. being 18 years and a half, was Coined three Millions two hundred thirty eight thousand nine hundred ninety seven Pounds sixteen Shillings and three farthings; about one Million of which was Harp and Crofs Money, and broad Gold, &c. re-coined; which deducted, there remains but 2 Millions two hundred thirty eight thousand nine hundred ninety seven Pounds 16 s. three farthings; which was per An^o but one hundred twenty one thousand 26 l. eighteen Shillings and four Pence.

The total of all Gold & Silver Coined in these 76 years, from the first of

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
7733521	13	4	$\frac{1}{2}$	407027	9	$\frac{1}{2}$

2238997	16	$\frac{1}{2}$	121026	18	04
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*Octob.**Gold and Silver Coined | Totals by Tale.*

Octob. 1599. to *Novemb.* 1675. was Coined twenty one Millions eight hundred fifty one thousand eight hundred seventy six Pounds fourteen Shillings seven Pence half-penny.

The Coin yearly increased in the 2^d part, from the last of *March* 1619. to the last of *March* 1638. more than in the first part, one hundred and eighteen thousand sixty seven Pounds ten Shillings seven pence farthing; the Total thereof is two Millions two hundred forty three thousand two hundred eighty three Pounds one Shilling two pence.

The Coin yearly increased in the 3^d part, from the last of *March* 1638. to *May* 1657. one hundred sixty one thousand nine hundred thirty four Pounds 17 s. 7 d. $\frac{1}{2}$; the Total thereof is

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
21851876	14	7	$\frac{1}{2}$

Yearly Increase. | Total Increase

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
118067	10	4	$\frac{1}{2}$	2243283	01	04

161934	17	7	$\frac{1}{2}$	3076762	14	10	$\frac{1}{2}$
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L 2

three

Gold and Silver Coined.

three Millions seventy six thousand seven hundred sixty two Pounds fourteen Shilling ten pence half-penny.

The Coin hath yearly decreased in the fourth part, from May 1657. to this present November 1675, being the last eighteen years and half, two hundred eighty six thousand Pounds ten Shillings nine pence half-penny; the total whereof is five Millions two hundred ninety one thousand and nine Pounds nineteen Shillings four pence farthing.

Yearly Decrease, | Tot^r Decrease.

<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
286000	10	9½	5291009	19	4½

This prodigious decrease of Coin in the last eighteen years, does undeniably evidence a vast decay in our Trade: but since, even in these latter years, there hath been somewhat above 120000 *l.* per An^o Coined, as appears by the Account, it doth seem to administer an Objection, that still there hath been some National gain by Trade, though much less than before.

But this does not follow, for if more Money hath been exported yearly during these last eighteen years than hath been Coined, the National Treasure must be diminished: Now if we have been over-balanced, more Money must be exported; so that it will resolve into the former Question.

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It is a vain thing to say, that the exportation of Money in *specie* stands still prohibited; so is the exporting of Treasure prohibited in *Spain* under the highest Penalties; and yet because *Spain* is over-balanced by consumptive Importations, Forreigners continually carry it away so that were it not for their Mines, there would not have been the value of a Penny left in *Spain* many years since; nor can their *Miners* so answer this mighty drain by a consumptive Trade, but that the Treasures of *Spain* are drawn lower than in any Nation in *Europe*.

And therefore though the ordinary Trading with exported Money is condemnable, as that which tends to the subversion of Manufacture and People, and facilitates meer Importations; yet I cannot recommend prohibitory Laws as a means to stop the exportation of Money, unless at the same time the Methods of Trade be regulated.

'Tis now become more practicable by the Liberty given for the Exportation of Bullions for upon any great emergency for Bullion, (as for instance) upon the going out of an *East-India Fleet*, Standard-Silver hath risen from 5 *s.* the Ounce to 5 *s.* 4 *d.* the Ounces, which being about 10 per Cent, must not only hinder the Coining of Bullion, but must cause our weighty Coin to be melted into Bullion, and so exported as it hath been noted before.

And upon the like occasions 'tis observable, that Guinies rise to 22 *s.* apiece, & broad Gold to 24 *s.* apiece, which does evince, that those who use that Trade do not confine themselves to Bullion.

So 'tis notorious to those who understand our *Northern* and *Eastern* Trades, and our Trade to *France*, the *Countries*, *Turkey*, &c. that we yearly export great quantities of Treasure to those and other Countries, and that

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we do not stick at *Coined Money*, being closely put up in Packs of Goods or Barrels, or however may be made lawful and laudable Merchandize by melting; whence it is come to be so commonly asserted a Commodity; and then if we look back and observe how little hath been Coined in the 18 years since (57) being but 121026 *l. per An.*, it must be highly credible, that we have exported much more Money yearly than we have Coined.

But to make the over-balance yet more evident, it will be necessary to find out, if possible, what was the yearly Treasure the Nation gained by Foreign Trade, at any time in this last Age; and in the next place, how much our Exportations and beneficial part of our Trade have since failed, and our Importations increased in quantity and value.

The increase of Home-Treasure must either be in Coined Money, or in Plate, made up for Home-uses; for all Bullion imported must either be converted into one of these at home, or else be re-exported, and then 'tis not superadded to the National Home-Treasure.

Now if we look back to the Accompt from the Mint, we may conclude, that during those 76 years, our Trade did never add more to our Coin yearly than 407027 *l. 9 s. 1 d. ½* for any number of 20 years together; this being the utmost Medium comprized in the Accompt.

Plate Coined by the King at *Oxon*, and Parliament at *London*.

And this being in the 18 years before (57,) was not all the meer product of the Trade of these very years, for 'tis well known that during those years we had good quantities of our own Plate Coined into Money, 'tis not possible for me to ascertain how much; but if it were a Million, it ought to be deducted out of the Medium of those years.

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So during those 18 years, our Trade might yet add less to our Coined Money, viz. in case our Foreign Trade did then export any of our Coined Money, the like may be said of any other of the said 18 years or Mediums in the Accompt; and then must all the Money so exported be also deducted out of the Annual Gain of those years.

I believe none will expect that I should adjust the yearly quantity of Money exported by stealth in our Foreign Trade before (57,) I shall leave it to the consideration of the indifferent Reader upon what I shall add; but 'tis evident, that our Merchants did formerly use to export Money, by the prohibitory Statutes made on that occasion:

It may be also further evident, that the yearly quantity of Money so exported before 57 was considerable; for before the 76 years mentioned in the Accompt, we must have had some stock of Money in the Nation, which supposing to be but six Millions, then adding what more was Coined during the said 76 years, we must have had near 30 Millions of Coin in the Nation before 57, had none been exported; whereas no intelligent Man will say we had then half that Sum; which if doubted I shall have occasion to enforce further; and if this be admitted, the Consequence must be, that our Foreign Trade and occasions did even before 57 carry off near half as much Money as was yearly Coined; and then our National yearly Gain in Coined Treasure would not be near to the aforesaid full Mediums Coined, nor to above half the Mediums, (taking any number of years together.)

Nor can we reckon or allow of above 50000 *l. per Annum* for increase of Home-Plate, during any of the said 18 years, considering that much Plate is always

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brought back to the Mint, or turned into Bullion, as other new Plate is made; and that at this allowance for Plate, in any twenty years time there would be a Million increase of Home-Plate in the Nation.

Upon the whole the Reader may observe what our utmost National Gain in increase of Treasure possibly might be, and upon the aforesaid grounds may deduct from any of the Mediums as he shall think reasonable, wherein I shall not pretend to confine him, though in my private Judgment I cannot estimate our utmost National increase of Treasure by Trade during any of the said 76 years to be above 250000 *l. per Annum*, or thereabouts for any twenty years together.

Considering which, if the indifferent Reader shall reflect on what hath been said in the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Sections, if he there find that our Trade hath been under such difficulties, as must necessarily work us out of all the parts of it, whilst our Neighbours are enabled to snatch it from us: If he there find undeniable Instances of it in some Particulars, he may for the same Reasons conclude the like in all others; and by Consequence that our National Trade long before this, became less beneficial than it was by 250000 *l. per Annum*; it hath been always found most safe to be governed by the Causes and Reasons of things, but the concurrent impoverishment of our People, and other the Symptoms, Plague-fores, and Spots of a consumptive Trade do further evidence it.

It is confessed it would be of great use, if the odds in our past and present National Foreign Trade might be certainly stated; a difficult, if not impossible task: Since it requires an ancient, as well as modern experience in Foreign Trade, and not of any one Trader only, but of so many as have traded into all Parts;
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of those that are curious, intelligent, and impartial, and have minded the *publick Interest* as well as their *own*; perhaps if a sufficient number of such as these did assemble, they might, upon debate, and with reference to their Books, bring the Compute very near the truth; but nothing of this hath been done of late; and whosoever shall promiscuously consult our Traders apart, will find them various: Then for our *Custom-Books* old or new, though they might be useful for some things, yet they cannot ascertain us in the odds of the Foreign values of any Exported or Imported Goods, nor of the quantity of Imported prohibited or smuggled Goods, nor (as I conceive) of our former or present Fishing-Trade, (Fish paying no Custom) nor of the gain of Carriage, nor of the Trade from Port to Port; without which the certain odds in the Balance cannot be calculated; and therefore for my own part I rest chiefly on what hath been said; believing myself secure whilst I keep my self to the *rational part*, which cannot be refuted but by Reason: Whereas I am apprehensive that should I descend to examine our Balance of Trade by the particular *effects* of the foregoing *Cause*, these being matters of *Fact*, and very many, and most of them Foreign, and of less Notoriety, may be liable to Exceptions or Cavils of particular Men, as their different Sentiments or Interests may dictate; it being as easy to deny as affirm, and as hard for many Readers to determine the truth in these matters; whereby the sincerity of the Relator may be drawn into question; and at such times, when he shall have no opportunity to defend himself: and I am not insensible, that amongst so many Facts as the nature of this Subject hath forced me to mention, (whereof I must speak much upon the credit I give to others)
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'tis impossible there may be some slips, even by the transcribing of Papers: Upon these Considerations, I had thoughts of laying aside part of the three next Sections as needless, and neglected somewhat of that Curiosity I intended, but being perused and approved by some Friends amongst the rest of these Papers, they have perswaded me to publish them as they are; upon apprehension that they will enforce what I have already said, though left so general, and will give the Reader a further useful light into the past and present nature and condition of our Trade and Nation: and since they do not bind up the Reader to precise Quantities and Values, can admit of little alteration; in which I have been the more ready to comply, upon hopes that I may awaken and spur on the *virtuous emulation* of others to a more compleat disquisition into the several branches of our Trade, and that the Reader will think me the more excusable in this and the rest I have undertaken, when he shall observe the present Subject so *Copious*, and so little laboured by other Writers, that I have no common Places or beaten Tracks to follow, as in other Studies.

This I assure the Reader, that amongst the following instances, or elsewhere, there are no wilfull or effected errors, and that I have not affirmed any thing which I do not know, but upon such Authority as I have reason to believe *highly* credible, and am confident that whatsoever mistakes in Fact the Curious may find out in what I have already said, or shall say, there are none such as do in the least impeach the *force or reason* of this Discourse, and then must be admitted immaterial.

To which I shall add, that by the following Essay, I do not pretend to that difficult work of adjusting the present

present Ballance of our Trade, but to evince, that the former Ballance of our Trade (as it may be computed from the aforesaid Account, from the Mint or otherwise) is grown consumptive in *some degree*; which I think will appear to the indifferent Readers satisfaction, upon consideration of some late decays and defalcations in our Trade, wherein I shall confine my self to such as have happened long after the beginning of the 76 years mentioned in the Account, from the Mint, many of them within 20 years last.

SECT. XI.

Particular decays in our Exportations, and the beneficial parts of our Trade; Instances in the decay of our Foreign-Trade for Woollen Clothing, in the several Countries and Ports we Traded to, in the sinking of the foreign price of this Manufacture, so of exporting Wooll, in our foreign victualling Trades for Flesh, Butter, Cheese, &c. in our Irish Trade, and Scotch Trade for almost all sorts of Commodities: Irish Wooll increased: The Expiration of the Irish Acts will not now revest that Trade, but prejudice us more, and in what decays in our several former and late Fishing-Trades, in our Foreign-Trade for Stockings and Hats in our exports to the Canaries, in the Foreign-Price of our exported Tin and Lead, and the Price and quantity of exported Pewter, in our Trade from Port to Port, our former and late prejudices in our Plantation-Trade, incidently of our Navigation and other things.

I shall begin with our Exportations, and as I shall pass from one particular to another, in this and the next Section, shall desire the indifferent Reader to put such an estimation on our losses in Trade,

Trade, as he shall think reasonable; and shall first instance in our Woollen Manufactures, as being our principal Commodity, and certainly of the most general and necessary use, (and therefore in its nature the best) in the World.

Before *Edward the third's* time the *Flemings* Manufactured our Wooll, and had the Merchandize of it, which gave the original Foundation to the former Wealth and Popularity of the *Netherlands*.

Edw. 3. observing the great advantages the *Flemings* made of our Wooll, brought over some *Flemish* Manufacturers, who by degrees taught the Manufacture of *Cloaths* of all sorts, *Worsted* and divers others, particularly mentioned in our *Statutes* of former times; and as the *English* more applied themselves to it, and increased ours (as soon they did) so did that of the *Flemings* decay.

For first, the *English* had the materials cheaper than the *Flemings*, not only by the odds in the carriage out of *England*, but because the raw Woolls afterwards exported were charged with great *Customs* and *Duties* to the King, as appears by the Acts and Writings of those times.

Secondly, Because the Manufacture was continually encouraged, and taken care of by Laws for that purpose, as also appears by our *Statute-Book*.

Thirdly, At that time we had none of the present Clogs on our Manufactures, which have either become so by the better Methods of Trade first contrived by the *Dutch* States, or have been grafted upon us by private or mixt interells long since *Edw. 3d's* time. I do not find that there was any absolute Prohibition of exporting Wooll till the Statute of the 12th of His now Majesty, chap. 32. yet the example of

of our cunning Neighbours now tell us, that *Prohibitions*, accompanied with a due Improvement of Trade at home, are not to be condemned.

The *Flemish* Cloath-trade was long since so far reduced, that we had the sole Merchandize of it, yet it cannot be denied but the *Flemings* kept up a Manufacture of a sort of *Stuffs* and *Sayes*, (but of no great bulk) the make whereof the *English* had not been taught, till the *Duke of Alva* about 100 years since by his Tyranny and Persecution for Conscience, drove away their Manufacturers, whom *Queen Elizabeth* like her wife Predecessor *Edward the third* entertained, seating them in *Norwich*, *Colchester*, and *Canterbury*, whereby these Manufactures became incorporated into the *English*, to the great advantage of these parts, and of the Nation in general: they also taught us the art of making *Tapestry*.

Before this the *English* exported great quantities of our Manufacture into *Flanders*, but doubtless more afterwards, for which we kept a rich Staple at *Antwerp*, the *Dutch* long after they became States were ignorant of this Manufacture, whom we therefore wholly supplied, exporting vast quantities of our Cloaths thither, most Whites, which were there dyed and dressed, and from these parts transmitted into the *Southern* and *South-east* Countries of *Germany*, and many other Nations: we had also the sole trade up the *Elbe*, and thereby to the *North* parts of *Germany*, *Jutland* and *Hollisme*.

We had the sole Trade into *Denmark*, *Norway*, *Swedeland* and *Liesland*, and to the great Territory of *Poland* (through *Pamzick*) by our *Eastland Company*, formerly very flourishing, and called the *Royal Company*.

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We had also the sole Trade to the vast Empire of *Muscovy*.

All which Trades are sunk to a small matter, the *Dutch* having set up mighty Woollen Manufactures of all sorts, and the *Flemings* renewed or enlarged theirs, our exports to those parts are very much reduced.

Our *Hamburg Company*, by whom the North parts of *Germany*, *Jutland* and *Hollsteyne* were supplied, do not vend near half what they did, the *Dutch* and other Manufactures having prevailed upon us in those parts, both for the Finest and Coursest Cloaths: what we now export to *Hamburg* are a sort of Cloaths of between 3, and 7 s. a Yard, and of those not near the former quantity.

Then for our *Eastland Trade* it is sunk more, I have heard several Estimates, all near concurring with what I find in Mr. *Coke's* third Treatise of Trade, dedicated to

Page 33, 34.

Prince Rupert, viz. That this

Company only heretofore usually exported above 20000 Broad Cloaths, 60000 Kerseys and 40000 Doubles yearly; but of late years not above 4000 Broad Cloaths, 5000 Kerseys, and 2000 Doubles. To give this worthy Gentleman his due, he hath written more materially on the present subject than any man in this Age, in which he hath not only demonstrated his deep Judgement, but his great sedulity and sincerity in the discovery of the truth, professing himself ready to make out whatsoever

Page 112.

he hath reported, before any Indicature. There is too much reason and fact to warrant the great decay of this *Eastland Trade*, when the *Dutch* Manufacture arrived to such a degree, besides which the *Silesian* and

and *Polonian* Manufactures of Coarse Woolls are mightily increased, so that at *Dantzick*, our late great staple, we now sell so little that 'tis not worth the naming; we now trade thither with Treasure, whence we used to Import much; the like may be said of other Ports this Company formerly traded to.

Then for *Swedeland*, the Natives have lately set up a Manufacture there of their Coarse Woolls, as well as *Denmark*, *Liesland* and *Norway*, are very much supplied by the *Dutch*, imposing greater Prices and Customs upon us for what they vend, and insisting to have Treasure of us, where before they bartered for Commodity.

To which I may add, That our late great *Muscovy* Trade is in a manner lost; the same Mr. *Coke* takes notice that the *Dutch* send 1500 Sail of Ships into the *Sound* in a year, and 40 to *Muscovy*, we do not send above seven into the *Sound* in a year, of which two are laden with woollen Manufactures, the other five with Ballast, (and are therefore to buy their foreign lading) and to *Muscovy* we hardly send two in three years; during the late War we have sent somewhat more.

We had also the sole trading for woollen Cloathing into *France*, of which we vended there to the value of 600000 l. yearly; but the *French*

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having for these later years set up this Manufacture at home, do now supply themselves; and as their own hath increased, so have they laid greater Impositions upon ours, till in (67) the *French* King set an intolerable Tax of

This value of our exported Cloathing to *France* is avouched by our Ancient Traders thither, and asserted in the Printed Book in (77) in defence of our *East-India* Company.

about 50 per Cent.

on all our Cloathing imported into

France, by which our Cloathing-trade

to *France* became in a manner impra-

cticable, nor have the *French* any occasion to open this Trade to us again.

We had also the sole Cloathing-Trade into *Turkey*, *Spain* and its Dominion; and it must be confessed, that we have supported our *Turkey-Trade* better than any other, much occasioned by our importation of raw Silk from those parts, for which we used to barter: but of late years the *Dutch* are great Competitors with us in the *Turkey-Trade*, (though the *English* may have had the advantage whilst the *Dutch* have been engaged in the late War;) the

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French

French have been long nibbling at this Trade, and both the *French* and *Dutch* largely share with us in the *Spanish-Trade*.

But what is yet more grievous, we import much *Fine Cloath* from the *Dutch* yearly, and till of late great quantities of *Stuffs* and *Druggets* from the *French*, which *French* Importation (only) amounted to the value of 150000*l.* per Annum, as Mr. *Fortrey* in his Book of Trade reports; how much of these, or other *French* Goods may be imported for the future, may be guessed from what I shall say in the last Section concerning the late *Prohibition of French Goods*; in the mean time it may be observed, how far our late *Monopoly* of the Woollen Manufacture is vanished.

We had also the sole Trade for Woollen Manufactures to the Kingdom of *Portugal*, which Trade hath been decaying several years, because of the Competition of the *French* and *Dutch*, but of late hath been worse than ever; by reason that the Government of *Portugal* since the year 1660 hath prohibited the wearing of *English* Cloath; having set up this Manufacture of their own Wools; we still drive a Trade thi-

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164. *Instances of the Decay, &c.*

hear the Complaints of these Clothiers, who continue in the Manufacture.

I may add, that our *exported Wool* is sunk to about a third of its late price. } oooooo

And whereas before the said *Irish Acts*, Foreign *Ships* did use to victual themselves out of the plenties of *England*, the *Irish* being since forced to fat their own Cattle at home, and by the cheapness of their Lands being enabled to sell cheaper than the *English*, Foreigners do now victual their *Ships* out of the new stores of *Ireland*, and cheaper than we can in *England*; by which we are beat out of the Trade of *Foreign Victualling*; nay, what is yet harder upon us, the very *English Ships* do now ordinarily victual from *Ireland*: this Trade of *Victualling* is also much prejudiced by our late *Art of Navigation*, which does exclude much *Forreign Shipping* from our Ports; and of what yearly loss this must be to the *English Nation*, and more particularly to the *English Land-holders*, I submit to Judgment. } oooooo

Also

of our *Exportations, &c.*

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Also the *English*, before the said *Irish Acts*, Exported vast quantities of *Butter* to *France, Spain, Portugal, Flanders, Italy*, and into *Ireland* it self, and *Cheese* also; but the *Irish* by the Stop of Importation of lean Cattle, being put to make another Rent of their Land, have set themselves to the making of *Butter* and *Cheese*, and do not only supply themselves, but by the cheapness of their Lands do under-sell us to these Foreigners, and have therefore in a manner beaten us out of this Trade; and how much this must affect the *Dairies* and *Rents of England*, and what the yearly loss to *England* may amount to, I also submit to Judgment. } oooooo

So before the said *Irish Acts*, *England* did furnish *Ireland* with *Hats, Stockings, Dying Stuffs, Hides, Fruit, Sugars, Tobaccos, Silks* of all sorts, *Gold, Silver, and Silk Lace, and Ribbons* of all sorts. And before the Act of 15 Car. 2. cap. 7. Intituled, *Trade Encouraged* (by which the Importation of *Scotch Cattle* was stoppt) *England* did furnish *Scotland* with wrought *Wire* of all sorts, *Haberdashers Ware, as Hats, Ribbons, Gloves, Buttons,*

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Bandstrings,

Bandstrings of all sorts, Upholsterers Ware, as Hangings, Stools, Chairs, &c. all sorts of Cutlers Ware, as Knives, Scissors, Sickles, Scitbes, all sorts of Slop-sellers Ware, as Stockings, Caps, course Shifts, and Frocks: By all which, the English Manufacturers and Nation made considerable Gain.

But the Commerce between between *England* and *Ireland*, and *England* and *Scotland*, being stopt by reason of the said Acts, the *Irish* and *Scotch* do otherwise supply themselves with these Manufactures, partly by the like Manufactures set up at home, partly by such other Foreigners with whom they now Trade: And the *Scots* upon occasion of the said Act of 15 Car. 2. imposed a Tax of 90 per Cent. on all *English* Commodities Imported into *Scotland*.

It is a hard matter to put a just Estimate on these yearly Losses; for the present I shall leave it to be computed by our *Melancholick English* Tradesmen.

By means of the same *Irish Acts*, we have also lost the Exportation of *English Hops* and *Beer* from the Eastern, Southern, and Western Parts of *England* into *Ireland*.

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And whereas before the said *Irish Acts*, *England* was the Storehouse of *Ireland*, and did furnish the *Irish* with *Foreign imported Wares* of all sorts, and our *Irish* Trade did maintain above 100 Sail of our *Ships* sailing between, besides what were employed outwards with Commodities of the growths of *Ireland*; since the said Acts, the *Irish* are supplied by the *Dutch*, or other Foreign Stores and Navigation, and are much increased in Shipping of their own.

And as if the mischief of these Acts would never have an end, it may be further observed, they were the occasion of Increase of *Sheep*, and thereby of a vast increase of *Wool* in *Ireland*, by which the *French* and *Dutch* Woollen Manufactures are now more plentifully supported, and rather cheaper than the *English*.

And now the *Irish*, for the former Reasons, also furnish our *Foreign Plantations*, with very much of their Butter, Cheese, Clothes, and other necessities of the growth and product of *Ireland*: Considering which, and that those of *New England*, of late

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furnish the rest with *Flower, Bisket, Salt, Flesh, Fish, &c.* (all which were formerly Exported from hence) we may expect our *Plantation-Trade* for *Sugar, Tobacco, &c.* must e're long be wholly driven with *Exported Money, or with foreign Goods bought with Exported Money*, since by this means, by the insufficiency of our own home-Manufactures, and the growing *Luxury* of our *Planters*, we are forced to send vast quantities thither already, particularly, *foreign Linens of all sorts, Paper, Silks, and Wines of all sorts, Brandies*, and other things mentioned in the next Section, besides great quantities of *Wines* sent from the *Madera's*, paid by Bills of Exchange drawn on our Merchants in *Lisbon*. The consequence of the Whole is, that the loss of the *Irish Trade*, and the consequences thereof, have much assisted in the Impoverishment of the *English*, (who bear almost all the Charge of the Government) and will eat upon us more and more daily; and on the other side the *Irish*, who lately dealt so cruelly by us, and are a Conquered People, are made far richer on a suddain, and that the *Irish Lands*

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do much rise in Rent, whilst the *English* sink.

Having given this Account of our direct and Consequential Losses by the *Irish Acts*, I expect to be Answered by some, That howsoever these Acts may have prejudiced us for the time past, they are now expired, and that by Consequence we shall now be let into all the advantages we had before the Acts made. This I shall examine before I go further, and with that Impartiality as I think becomes an *Englishman*, without being byassed by the Situation of my Lands: which if any man does, this Consequence must appear mistaken.

For first, The Manufactures set up in *Ireland*, will still Continue to the same prejudice of ours; and 'tis highly probable (if not certain) that they will Improve, by the cheapness of their Provision and Wages.

Secondly, Having now long used to fatten their Cattle (with which they do not only continually Victual all sorts of Ships, but Foreign Towns, Armies and Nations, particularly the *French*, and those of the United Provinces, besides the Return they make by the Vent of their Hides and Tallowes) it is not to be Imagined that they will be so mad as to give up this far more profitable Trade.

Thirdly, They will breed, manufacture, and Export as much Wooll, Butter, Cheese, &c. as before.

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Fourthly,

Fourthly, These Exportations obliging them to Commerce with the *French* and *Dutch*, as before, it must be expected that they will generally still buy such Commodities as they want of the *Dutch* and *French*; and much the rather, because the *Dutch* and *French*, for Reasons before mentioned, can and will afford them much cheaper than the *English*.

What Advantages shall we then have by the expiring of the *Irish Acts*? 'tis confessed, that their Territory being large, most Fruitful, and now plentifully stored with Cattle, they may carry on their other Trades, and yet furnish us with abundant Stores of Cattle for our Money, which they already do, sending many of their Cattle near or altogether *fatt*: supposing them *lean*, yet will not this Nation get 3^d a year by it, but will be a yearly loser.

For the meer Importing of *Irish* Cattle, did never advantage this Nation otherwise, than as it secured the *Irish* in that base way of Trade, and from turning their National Industry into a Competition with the *English* in other Trades; during which time, what Money they received for their Cattle, they generally laid out in *London*, or elsewhere in *England*, for the Commodities I mentioned before, and others, by which *Ireland* was stored; But now I do not see how it can be avoided, but that they will carry out all or the greatest part of the Money

Money they receive, in *Specie*, which may probably be little less than 100000 *l.* per Annum, I conceive much more than double that Sum, Considering what Victuals and other Commodities we freight from thence in our Voyages Yearly; so that the Importing of these Cattle will not only greatly sink the *Welsh* and *Northern Rents*, but all other *Rents* in a little time; which must demonstrate the further necessity of Easing and regulating our Trade equal to the *Dutch* or *French*, who will otherwise thrust us out of this Trade and all other, and will give a greater Vent to the *Irish* Commodities daily. In the mean time we may observe, that we ought not to be governed by such narrow Principles as the Situation of our *English Lands*, but by the National Interest. Lastly, I shall add, That should we suppose a Compleat restitution of our losses in and by the *Irish Trade*, Yet Considering our other defalcations in Trade, and our present Poverty, it would not restore the Balance of our Trade, or not to any such degree, as to secure the Nation.

Our *Fishing Trade* hath decayed continually of later years; we formerly supplied *France*, *Spain*, *Muscovy*, *Portugal*, and *Italy*, with great quantities of White Herring, Ling,

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and Cod-fish, which Trade is now lost to the *Dutch, French, &c.* We have only the Trade of *Red Herrings*, which we retain; because, before the

Mr. Smith cited before, reasonably computes other Nations gain, 10000000 *l.* per annum by this Fishing Trade only, whereof the *Dutch* above 5000000 *l.* Mr. Mun in 63. faith, It was found that all our Exported Fish, of all sorts, amounted to but 1400000 *l.* per annum, Pag. 184.

Dutch can bring their *Herrings* upon their own coasts, they grow too stale to be cured for *Red Herrings*; and what a miserable thing is it for our poor starving Natives to see the *Dutch*, and other

Foreigners draw such Inestimable Treasures out of our own Seas, and at our Doors? This Fishing Trade (bringing in *no Custom*) was insensibly lost in the pursuit of our *Plantation-Trade*, on which great *Customs* are Imposed.

So is our *Island Fishing* very much decayed, where we have not a fourth part of the Trade we had twenty or thirty years since; the like may be said of our *Newfound-Land Fishing*; and our *Groenland Fishing*, where we had the sole Trade, is quite lost: the *Dutch* had far beaten us out of these Trades,

but

but the *French* of later years have struck into a good share of the Whole, beating out the *English* more & more; And by the loss of our Fishing Trade, our National Gain must not only be vastly sunk, but our Sea Coasts are generally impoverished to a lamentable and almost incredible degree, and our Nation is deprived of this great and necessary *Nursery of Seamen*.

Our Foreign Trade for Woven *Silk-Stockings*, and *Knit Woollen Stockings*, is much decayed, by reason that these Manufactures are set up in divers foreign Countries, which (though perhaps they are not, nor for Woollen Stockings can ever be so good as ours) yet they greatly hinder our Foreign Vent; and our late great Trade and Exportation of *English Flats* to *Spain*, is in a manner lost, being now mostly supplied by the *French*.

Our Exportations to the *Canary Islands* are vastly sunk in quantity and value, from what they formerly and lately were; of which I shall speak more particularly in the next Section.

Amongst many other Excellent Materials

Materials, we have in *England* great store of *Tyn* and *Lead*, capable of rich and mighty Manufactures in mixture, and otherwise, as appears by our Imported *Tynned Plates* from *Germany*, which are computed to cost *England* near 100000 l. per Annum; and then what does that Manufacture bring into *Germany* from other Countreys? This Art the *English* were never taught, but have had a Manufacture of *Pewter*, made of our *Tyn* and *Lead*, of which we made and exported far greater quantities to *Spain*, than of late Years we have done, since the *Dutch* and others came to share with us in that Trade, so did we export more of it into *France* and *Holland*, in which Countreys 'tis now prohibited. We now Manufacture very little of our *Tyn* and *Lead*, but export these materials to be Manufactured in other Nations, to whom we are little better than the Miners; and though some Forreigners have lately taught us to make better *Pewter* than before, yet the bulk and exportation of it is much less. Our exported *Tyn* is sunk more than half its former forreign Price, and our exported

ported *Pewter* above a third, as is also our exported *Lead*.

Perhaps more instances might be given of decayes in our Exportations of late Years, though it may be considered that we never had many Exportable Manufactures of very great bulk and value, nor in truth any but that of our *Wooll*; so that if we so much fail of our former gain in this Commodity, it must strike deep on our former Ballance; But much more if we also fail in so many other Exportations and Beneficial Trades.

And after these losses in our Exporting Trade, a further Estimate ought to be made of the decay in our Trade from *Port to Port*; for though the *English* never were, nor since the *Dutch* began to trade could be, considerably Masters of this kind of Trade; Yet may it be presumed, that whilst we kept the *Monopoly of Cloth*, our Merchants by the Barter and Vent of this Commodity had then more advantageous Opportunities of Buying and Selling Foreign goods in Forreign Ports; and the rather, because it not only gave the *English* an extraordinary Reputation, but a real preference in those Parts they then principally Traded to; besides, the former *Privileges* the *English* long enjoyed in *Muscovy*, enabled them to so much of this kind of Trade as related to that Empire, which advantage we have lost by the presumption

sumption of those Priviledges, whereof I shall say more.

But perhaps I may be told, That all our before mentioned Defalcations in the beneficial parts of our Trade, have been made good by the Accession of the *Plantation-Trade* in the Reign of King *James*, (being within the Compasses of the 76 Years mentioned in the Account from the Mint) and by the Increase of it since; and I the rather expect this Objection, because this Trade remaining inclosed to the Subjects of the Crown of *England*, who for Want of other Trade are thrust into it, it makes a great noise amongst us; I shall therefore speak more particularly to it, than yet I have, that I may leave no Holes for Starters.

It may be Alledged, and must be Confessed, That this Trade hath employed a good number of Ships, and hath brought in great Customs; but nothing of this is to the present question, being only, Whether it hath advantaged the Nation in its Annual gain of Treasure; which I conceive this Trade hath not, if ballanced with the losses the Nation hath received by it.

All the Gain *England* can or ever could receive by this Trade, must be in the Return and Result of those Commodities we import from the *Plantations*, (*viz.* Sugars, Tobaccos, Dying Stuffs, &c.) in Exchange for so much of our Butter,

Butter, Cheese, Beer, Woollen Cloaths, Hats, Shoes, Iron-work, and other home-Commodities as we Export thither.

Now that the Labours of the same People in Fishing or Manufactures at home did, and would have produced a greater Profit to the Nation than these *Plantation-Commodities*, I think no man, considering what hath been said before, can so much as make a question. In fact our Fishing for White Herring and Cod was deserted for this Trade, and the Continual transplanting of multitudes of our Manufacturers and other people, hath inevitably more and more sunk and disabled us in all Manufactures and home-Employments.

Then for the supposed advantage we have in the Vent of our home-Commodities to the Plantations; 'tis plain they are but our own People; and it must be undeniable, that had the same People stayed in *England*, they would have taken off a far greater Quantity; for whereas we now furnish them with some small part of their Victuals, we should then have supplied them with All, *viz.* with Bread, Flesh, Fish, Roots, &c. which now we do not; and they would have taken off far more of our Butter, Cheese, Cloathing, Drink, and other home Commodities, when they had them at hand, and had been put to no other shifts.

But our infelicity is yet greater; for our Planta-

Plantation-Trade (though at the best far less valuable to the Nation than the same People and their Labours at home) is yet grown much worse than it was 20 or 30 Years since, and must grow worse and worse Continually.

This must notoriously appear by what hath been said in this Section, when by means of the late *Irish* Acts, and for other Reasons there mentioned, we are forced to Export unto, and furnish these our Plantations with so much less quantities of our own, and so much greater quantities of Foreign Goods than formerly and lately we did.

Besides which, by a further Improvidence we have lost other advantages in this Trade: Our Re-exporters being to receive back half the Customs (which in this Trade are very mighty) it hath followed, that the *Dutch* coming to be furnished with our *Sugars and Dying Stuffs* much cheaper than the *English*, (as being charged not with half the Customs) have been by that means able to set up and beat us out of the Foreign Trade of *baked Sugars*, of which they bake and vend above 20 times the quantity the *English* do; so do they now use far the greatest part of our *Dying Stuffs*, gaining near as much, if not more, by these Manufactures than the raw materials yield the *English*.

Then

Then, if this Trade did originally subvert or weaken several better Trades, and besides is now less valuable than it was, instead of an Improvement, it ought to be reckoned amongst the defalcations in our present Trade.

And though it be not so direct to the present question, I shall add, That we have little reason to boast of our *Navigation* in this Trade, when it was the occasion of the loss of a more certain and beneficial Nursery of Seamen and Shipping in our Fishery, when at the same time the Strength and Business of the Nation have been so much contracted by the loss of our People, when our Planters of *New-England* having gotten a Considerable Navigation of their own, do Trade from *Port to Port* in *America*, and have in a manner beaten us out of that kind of Employment in those Parts; and when the *Irish Shipping*, together with the growing Plenties of *Ireland and New-England*, threaten the like in the Trade of *Exportation and Importation*. To all which may be added, what we ought to expect in case the *Dutch* may retain and Cultivate *Serriam* as far as 'tis capable, since it will produce as good *Sugars and Tobaccos* as any part of *America*, and as much as will serve the greatest part of the World, if not all.

Nay,

Nay, these *Plantations* may be Considered as the true Grounds and Causes of all our present Mischiefs; for, had our Fishers been put on no other Employment, had those Millions of People which we have lost or been prevented of by the *Plantations*, continued in *England*, the Government would long since have been under a necessity of Easing and regulating our Trade; the common Wants and Cries of our People would infallibly have obliged it; but much of the Industry of the Nation being turned this way, and the *Plantations* affording room and hopes for Men of *necessitous and uneasie Conditions*, and our Lawes mentioned in the Seventh Section, positing them away, they have deserted the Nation Continually, and left us intricated and fettered in private Interests and destructive Constitutions of Trade. And thus, whilst we have been projecting the *Increase of Customs*, we have sed our selves with the *Shadows* of Trade, and suffered other Nations to run away with the *Substance*. I am assured, that the *English* at *Jamaica* are now near, if not fully treble what they were when *Sir Thomas Muddisford* was Governour there, and then they were at least 20000; whence some Conjecture may be made at the rest.

SECT.

SECT. XII.

Instances in late Increases and Excesses of our Foreign Importations, and therein of the Decay of some other of our own Manufactures which supplied our Home-Uses, viz. in Linens of all sorts, more dear fine Linens used; incidently of the late and present Huswifery of English Women: In Ticking, in Imported Woollen Manufactures from Holland, France, and Ireland; In Cordage, Cables, Sayls, and Sca-Nets; in Iron, in Brandy; in Wines of all sorts, these risen in price; the particular odds in our former and present Canary-Trade; in Coffee, in Earthen Ware, Pitch, Tarre, Hemp, Flax, and Foreign Timber bought dearer, and far more Timber Imported: In Imported Silks of all sorts; in Laces, and many other things, and thereupon our late French Overbundance Considered. To which Added, our late losses by the French Capers, and Money Exported to France by our Travellers, &c. The National Overbundance inferred, this cleared by a Deduction of our Trade, with Relation to the Dutch and French, and therein of their gradual Increase, and our Decay in Trade; Whence the Growth of the French and Dutch Revenues and Strengths observed; a farther Calculation of our late and present Overbundance;

N

lance ; incidently of some farther Advantages in Trade Forreigners have upon us.

IN order to take a right Measure of the *Overbalance*, it is observed in the Eighth Section, That if the beneficial part of our Trade become worse, & the Consumptive Importations increase, it will sooner induce an *Overbalance*, and will cut deepest on the National Stock of Treasure.

Now it will much evidence the Increase of our Importations, if any of our own Manufactures which are of necessary Use at home, are lost, or impaired in any Considerable degree of later Years, because, the People must be then supplied by the like Forreign Goods, to a greater degree than before.

I shall first instance in *Linnen*, lately a Considerable Manufacture in *Cheshire*, *Lancashire*, and the Parts adjacent ; it was also the Hufwifery of our *English Ladies*, *Gentlewomen* and other *Women* ; which general Employment of our *Women*, (although most designed for the private Uses of Families) did keep very many Thousands of Linnen Looms at work in *England*, and did supply the greatest part of our National occasion for Household and Course Linnens of all sorts.

But all this Manufacture of *Linnen* in *Cheshire*, *Lancashire*, and elsewhere, is now in a manner

manner expired ; and the Hufwifely Women of *England* now employ themselves in making an ill sort of Lace, which serves no National or Natural Necessity ; most of the rest spend their times much worse, or are idle, bringing a Scandal on themselves and their Families ; so that there is hardly a working Linnen Loom left in a County : which Idleness and Unprofitable living of our *Women*, gives the *Dutch* a farther great Advantage upon us, whose *Women* are mainly serviceable in Trade.

And hence hath followed a great Increase of Forreign Imported Linnens from *Holland* and *Germany*, *Dantzick*, &c. much of which since the Decay of our Cloth-Trade into those Parts, we buy for Money, Bullion, or by Bills of Exchange, besides a prodigious Increase of Imported Linnens from *France*, which of later Years hath been estimated to cost the Nation at least 500000 l. per Annum, which must now be supplied from other Forreign Parts, and dearer, if our new Prohibition be observed. It hath also occasioned a far greater Home-Consumption of *Indian Callicoes*, &c. bought with Money ; and the rather, because the *English* of all sorts use more Linnen than ever, in

N 2

their

their Apparel, Beds, Curtains, Hangings, &c.

This Importation of Linnen is also become far more chargeable, by the more general Use of Dear *Fine Hollands*, and other *fine Forreign* Linnens of great Value; which till of later Years were only worn by some People of Quality, and by them very sparingly.

Thus also is our Manufacture of *Ticking* in *Devonshire* and *Somersetshire* much impaired, and much more Forreign Ticking Imported: Such is our Importation of Linnen, that at this day an *English* Linnen-Draper who deals for 80000 l. *per Annum* in Linnen, doth hardly sell 200 l. *per Annum English* of all sorts. Suppose all the People in *England* one with another bestow 5 l. a piece more in Forreign Linnen Yearly, than they used to do; what a Vast Summe must this amount to? And this being of so Universal Use, how soon may the Increase of this Importation alone turn the *Balance* of the *English* Trade? There is hardly any Nation in *Europe* but hath a Manufacture of Linnen, at least for Home-Uses, except *England*; from *Scotland* we have much, and in *Ireland* it is a growing Manufacture much encouraged.

To

To this may be added the New Importation of *Woollen Manufactures*, viz. *Cloths, Stuffs*, and *Druzgets* from *Holland* and *France*, of a great yearly value, mentioned in the Eleventh Section, but proper to be remembered here.

And it ought not to be forgotten, that no sooner had the *Irish* learned to make *Frize*, but presently *Irish Frize* became a great fashion in *England*.

Our Manufactures of *Cordage* for *Ships, Cables*, and *Sea-Nets*, are also much decayed from what they were, much occasioned by the late dearth of Imported Hemp and Flax, as hath been intimated before, and we are therefore forced to import much more of these Commodities from the *Dutch* and *French*; the *Act of Navigation* not Prohibiting the Manufacture; which is worthy to be observed.

There hath been a great Increase of imported *Iron* from *Swedeland*, *Flanders*, and *Spain*; by this means many *Iron-Works* are laid down already in *Kent*, *Sussex*, and *Surrey*, and elsewhere; and the rest must suddenly follow (if the Importation continue.)

N 3

which

which will bring at least 50000 Families in *England* on the Parish-Charge, and must sink the price of all the Woods now employed for Iron-Works to little or nothing. Imported Wire hath already beat out our home-Manufacture of Wire.

Our *English* Distillations of *Strong Waters* of all sorts, did formerly serve the National Uses, but of late years, our People at home, and Mariners abroad, have been supplied with Imported Brandy from *France* and *Germany*, which being hardly known in *England* within less than 20 years, hath of late cost the Nation above 100000 *l. per Annum*.

So hath the Importation of all sorts of *Foreign Wines*, vastly increased of later years, especially out of *France*. We have also bought *French Wines* dearer than formerly, and have bought them with our *Money*, *Bullion*, or by *Bills of Exchange*; but formerly with our *Exported Commodity*.

Besides which, we have vast quantities of Imported *Spanish Wines*,

which

The *Canary Wines* are computed at about 13000 Pipes yearly, which at 20 *l. per Pipe*, amounts to 260000 *l. per Annum*; and that our *Commodities* Exported thither, do amount to about 65000 *l. per Annum*.

which till of later years, we also Purchased with our *exported Commodities*, at the rate of 10 *l. per Pipe*, but now at about 20 *l. per*

Pipe, and mostly with *Money*, *Bullion*, or *Bills of Exchange*; so that 'tis Computed that of later years it hath cost *England* near 200000 *l. per Annum*, in Imported *Spanish Wine*, over and above the value of our *Commodities* Exported to the *Canaries*.

So, even before the stop of *French Wines*, we had very much more *Portugal* and *Rhenish Wines* Imported and consumed at home than ever; besides *Italian*, *Greek*, and *Smyrna Wines*; if the Importation of *French Wines* continue prohibited, we must expect as much more of these and *Spanish Wines* as will answer our present General Debauchery: many of these *Wines* were hardly known in *England* of late years, and the rest far more sparingly drunk; but our Imported *Wines* do now in the Whole cost the Nation the greater part of a Million *per Annum*.

N 4

T. 183

Thus do we swallow and piss out inestimable Treasures, and condemn our own excellent and more wholesom Drinks, which might be improved to a much greater Perfection, both for our Use at home, and Trade abroad; and whilst every one is an Ambitious Pretender to a Critical Palate in Wine, and is ready to impeach the Guilty Drawers for *Mixtures*, *Molossus*, and *Arsenic*, we are contented to let our Brewers abuse our own Liquors as they please.

And as if the *English* could affect every thing because it is Foreign, we have also a new chargeable Importation of *Coffee*, which of all others seems to be most useless, since it serves neither for Nourishment nor Debauchery.

We have also had a vast Increase of imported earthen Ware from *Holland*, most of it made of our own Earth and Lead.

To these ought to be added such other Importations, as are now bought much dearer than formerly; spoken of before, but fit to be remembered here: Such are *Pitch*, *Tar*, *Hemp*, *Flax*, and *Timber* from *Norway* and *Liesland*, being also mostly bought with Money, since the decay of our Cloth-Trade into those Parts; and of these the

yearly

yearly quantity of imported *Timber* of all sorts is vastly increased of later years, by reason of the Decay of our *English* *Timber*; so that we are overballanced in our Trade for these Commodities several 100000 *l. per Annum*.

Nay our so much boasted *Turkey* Trade is so far infected by the general Disease, that we now yearly Export almost as much *Treasure* to *Turkey*, as the value of our Cloth Exported thither amounts to. Of late years we Exported little or no *Treasure* thither; Nay, I have heard that formerly we Imported *Treasure* thence. In Exchange for the *Treasure* and Cloth now Exported, the principal Commodity we Import is *raw Silk*, this serves our own Silk Manufactures most consumed at home, except Silk-Stockings, for which our chief remaining Foreign Markets are *Cales* and *Hamburgh*. This Cloth-Trade depending on the vent of Imported Silk at home, is already considerably checked by the continual Increase of Imported *raw Silk* from the *East Indies*, where our *India Company* buy it with Exported *Treasure*; this year

they

they here Imported more than ever. This last Sale they exposed to be sold no less than 563 Bales of Raw Silk.

The *English* formerly wore or used little Silk in City or Countrey, only Persons of Quality pretended to it; but as our National Gaudery hath increased, it grew more and more into Mode; and is now become the Common Wear, nay, the ordinary Material for Bedding, Hanging of Rooms, Carpets, Lining of Coaches, and other things: and our *Women*, who generally govern in this Case, must have *Foreign Silks*; for these have got the Name, and in truth are most curious, and perhaps better wrought, as being most encouraged. Of the same humour are their Gallants, and such as they can influence; and most others. Our ordinary People, especially the Female, will be in Silk more or less, if they can; though never so plain, stained or tattered: Whence hath followed a vastly greater Importation, and some Consumption of the dear Silk-Manufactures from *Venice*, *Florence*, *Genoa*, *France*, and *Persia*, and of late from *Holland*; where they have improved their Silk

Manufacture

Manufacture to a considerable bulk and perfection. This our Affectation and Use of foreign Silks having apparently much increased, within about Twenty or Thirty years past, must produce a great Odds in the Ballance, and besides hath much contracted the *home-vent* of our *Woollen Stuffs and Cloths*, and *Beggared our own Silk-Weavers*. And it may be here taken notice of, as one of the mischievous Consequences of our present *Importing Trade*, That our Merchants to preserve their *only* home-Market, must bring in such curious and serviceable Foreign Manufactures as will beat out our own. This Importing Trade agrees well with our Shop-keepers, who can get more by Foreign Commodities, (of which few or none know the Prices but themselves, and the Merchants.)

We have also of late a very chargeable Importation of *Laces* from *Venice* and *Genoa*, but most of later years from *France*, all which are commonly called *Points de Venice*, amounting to a vast Sum yearly.

Of All others our late *Overballance* in the *French Trade*, hath been most Prodigious; and such

such have been the Arts to attain it; that it would require a particular Treatise by it self: But it will be necessary to what I have undertaken, to give some brief Account of it, and in what it did consist; and the rather, that something of the Variety of the *French* Exportable Manufactures and other Goods may Appear. I shall begin with what Mr. *Fortrey* reports in his Book twice Printed, In Anno (63) and (73) and Dedicated to his now Majesty, and therefore I presume of good Authority.

He tells us, That upon a Jealousie the *French King* had conceived of the Ballance of the *English* Trade, there was an Estimate thereof given in to the *French King*; whereby it appeared, that there was yearly Exported of *French* Goods by the *English*, to the value of 2500000 l. Viz.

1. In Velvets plain and wrought, Sattins plain and wrought, Cloth of God and Silver, Armofynes and other Merchandizes of Silk which are made at *Lions*, of a great value.

2. In Silk-Stuffs, Taffeties, Poudefoys, Armofyns, Clothes of Gold and Silver, Tabbies plain and wrought, Silk Ribbands and other such like Silk-Stuffs as are made at *Tours*.

3. In Silk Ribbands, Galloons, Laces, and Buttons of Silk, which are made at *Paris*, *Rouen*, *Chaintant*, *S. Eslieres* in *Forests*.

4. A

4. A great quantity of Serges, which are made at *Chalons*, *Chartres*, *Estammes*, and *Rhemes*; and great quantities of Serges made at *Amiens*, *Crevecoeur*, *Blicourt*, and other Towns in *Picardy*.

5. In Bever, Demicafter, and Felt-Hats, made in the City and Suburbs of *Paris*, besides many others made at *Rouen*, *Lyons*, and other places.

6. In Feathers, Belts, Girdles, Hatbands, Fans, Hoods, Masks, gilt and wrought Looking-Glasses, Cabinets, Watches, Pictures, Cases, Medals, Tablets, Bracelets, and other such like Ware.

7. In Pins, Needles, Box-Combs, Tortoise-shell-Combs, and such like.

8. In Perfumed and Trimmed Gloves, that are made at *Paris*, *Rouen*, *Clendosme*, *Clermont*, and other places.

9. In Papers of all sorts which are made at *Auvergne*, *Poitou*, *Limosin*, *Champaigne*, and *Normandy*.

10. In all sorts of Ironmongers Wares that are made in *Forrests*, *Auvergne*, and other places.

11. In Linnen Cloth that is made in *Britany*, and *Normandy*, as well Course as Fine.

12. In Household-stuff, consisting of Beds, Matresses, Coverlids, Hangings, Fringes of Silk, and other Furniture.

13. In

13. In Wines from *Gascoigne, Mantois*, and other places on the River of *Loyer*, and also from *Burdeaux, Rochel, Nante, Rouen*, and other places.

14. In Aqua-vitæ, Cyder, Vinegar, Verjuise, and such like.

15. In Saffron, Cattle-Soap, Honey, Almonds, Olives, Capers, Prunes, and such like.

16. Besides 5 or 600 Vessels of Salt laden at *Maron, Rochel, Bouage*, and the Isle of *Oleron*, and Isle of *Rhee*.

But that the Commodities Imported out of *England* into *France*, consisting chiefly of Woollen Cloathes, Serges, Knit Stockings, Lead, Pewter, Allom, Coals, and all else did not amount to above a Million yearly, which left the overballance 1600000 l.

'Tis true, that since this there was an Estimate of the *French* Overballance taken in *England* by some *English* Merchants, from the Entries of the Port of *London*, by which it was computed, that the *French* Overballance amounted to about a Million; This was presented by our Merchants to our Lords Commissioners upon a Treaty of Commerce with *France* in (74.) (which came to no conclusion) and afterwards to the *Parliament*; which seems to impeach the Estimate of the *French* Overballance reported by Mr. *Fortrey*, as to the *Quantum*.

This

This I need not contend, since if the *French* Overballance had been no more than a Million, it was enough to impoverish us, considering our Importations from other Foreign Nations; But that I may not totally desert Mr. *Fortrey*, I shall take notice, that this *English* Computation was taken from the Entries of the Port of *London* only, from whence there may not be any so just a calculation for all the rest of our Ports; and that the Entries do not comprehend any of those *French* Commodities which were prohibited by our former Laws, and are therefore Imported without Entry, which are accounted to amount to some Hundreds of thousand pounds yearly, perhaps near to another Million. But on the other side, that the *French* Entries must be certain as to the Exportations from *France*; that Mr. *Fortrey* would not be willing to falsify with His Majesty of *England*, nor the *French* Ministers with the *French King*, in a matter so important.

Nor is it to be thought that our Importations from *France* decreased in quantity or value since Mr. *Fortrey* wrote, to the time of the Prohibition, but rather increased; whereof our Merchants then gave an instance in *Wines and Brandies*, from the Entries of the Port of *London*, as followeth:

'From *Mich.* 1663. to *Mich.* 1664. There was Imported into the Port of *London* 6828 Tuns

'Tuns of French Wine, and then the quantity of Brandy was so small and inconsiderable, that it deserves not to be noted.

'From *Mich.* (67) to *Mich.* (69) There was Imported into the Port of *London* in the said two years, 17000 Tuns of French Wine, and of Brandy about 3000 Tun.

'From *Mich.* (72) to *Mich.* (74) Was Imported into the Port of *London* 22500 Tuns of French Wine.

'From *Mich.* (71) to *Mich.* (73) Was Imported to *London* 7315 Tuns of Brandy.

'From *Mich.* (73) to *Mich.* (74) Was Imported to *London*, as near as can be computed 5000 Tuns of Brandy, and every Tun of Brandy consuming about 5 Tuns of Wine, makes the quantity of 25000 Tuns of Wine.

This I the rather take notice of here, because from hence it doth also appear, that the Additional Impositions on French Wines and Brandies by our Parliament in (67) did not make the Importation of them less tolerable or practicable than before, and therefore were only Impositions on the English Subject.

Nay, the *French* have been able to raise the Prices of *their Wines* and *Brandies* upon us, even since (67) as the same Merchants represented. For,

'In (67) Langoon Wine in *France* was not above 43 Crowns *per Tun*, clear aboard.

In

In *Anno* (68) the price was 47 Crowns.

In *Anno* (69) 54 Crowns.

In *Anno* (70) 52 Crowns.

In *Anno* (71) 55 Crowns.

In *Anno* (72) 50 Crowns.

In *Anno* (73) 56 Crowns.

In *Anno* (74) 70 Crowns.

'And all sorts of *Clarrets* are risen double the price, since the year (67).

So said the Merchants in the year (74) and whosoever will take the pains to look into the Custom-Books, will find a mighty Increase of Imported French Wine and Brandy since (74) to the time of the Prohibition; and that, for several years last past, our Importation of French Linnen, Silks, and other Commodities, have also continually grown upon us, whereof we have an infallible Evidence in the continual Rising of our Customs.

I have heard that the quantity of French Wines Imported in 1676. made about 36000 Tuns of Wine, and that about the years (50) (51) and (52) the quantity yearly Imported was about 3000 Tuns of Wine.

But on the other side, the *French Policies* have been as industrious to suppress our *English Trade*, upon which they have gradually imposed more and more Taxes, and at last so great, that it amounts to a Prohibition; as may be Instanted in our Woollen Manufacture.

O

'In

In the year 1632, the Duty on an English Broad Cloth Imported into France, was 6 *Livres*.

In Anno (44) it was raised to 9 *Livres*.

In Anno (54) to 30 *Livres*.

In Anno (64) to 40 *Livres*, and yet did the English continue to Export considerable quantities of our Woollen Cloathes into France.

But in Anno (67) being after Mr. Fortrey first Printed his Book in (63) 'trey wrote, it was raised to 80 *Livres*, which is about 50 per Cent.

A piece of Serge in Anno (32) per 1 *Livre*.

In Anno (54) 5 *Livres*.

In (64) 6 *Livres*.

In (67) 12 *Livres*, which also amounting to about 50 per Cent. was equal or worse than an expresse Prohibition; so that all our Exportations of our home-Commodities to France in the year 1669. amounted but to 171021 *l. 6. s.* as it was Calculated from our own Entries (if my Copy be true.)

It will not be a Digression to shew how Industrious the French Policies have been to suppress our Trade to other Nations.

It

It is now about five years since that our Merchants, observing the Dutch & other Neighbour Nations to be in War, but ours in Peace; they had now golden hopes of driving a mightier Foreign Trade than ever; for which purpose they thought it convenient to buy many Dutch-built Ships, and somewhat the rather because they had lost many Ships in the late War: But the Act of Navigation standing in their way, they obtained His Majesties License for it.

But thereupon, there presently came out a French Edict for the seizing of all Ships bought in any Enemy's Country, which did discourage many of our Merchants from buying any Ships, yet many were bought and cleaved safe to our Ports; these and many English Ships our Merchants forthwith freighted and sent out, in prospect of a swelling Trade, and vast Returns of Treasure.

But immediately there came out swarms of French Capers, who seized on those Dutch-built Ships, though they had all necessary Passes; and from thence, finding the sweetness of it, they fell to taking of our English built Ships,

Mr. Mun of Forreign Trade pag. 149. Notes, That all the great Losses we receive at Sea in our Shipping, either outward or homeward bound, ought to be considered in the Balance; for the value of the one is to be Deducted from our Exportations; and the value of the other from our Importations.

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on pretence they carried Enemies Goods, whereof they themselves would be the Judges, and did actually seize all sorts of *English* built Ships, laden meerly on the account of *English* Merchants, they took meer *English* Coasters; nay, they retook many of our Ships which had been actually discharged in *France*; they plunder'd our Ships, and grievously beat and wounded our generous Seamen (who never before dream't of any thing but the Sovereignty of the Sea) and killed many.

Then were our Ships carried into the *French* Ports, and our Merchants put to prove the property of their own Ships and Goods before *French* Judges, in the new erected *French* Admiralties, by a long and tedious proceeding; by which, and also in the *French* Court, and by the Treachery of their own Agents, they were put to vast Expences.

There were about 400 Sail of our Merchants Ships seized in this manner, many of which the *French* thought fit absolutely to condemn; and such as were released were kept, some three Months, some six Months, some twelve Months, and some longer, and then were Discharged with great Damage, by Plunder and Expence in *France*, besides the first Violences; and after all, lost the intended Fruit of their Voyages, of which, doubtless the *French* were very sensible: And what is yet worse, the *French* King making the utmost advantages of every

every thing, got Thousands of our Seamen by extraordinary Pay, to engage in his Service, to which he doth still indear them by Money, and all imaginable encouragements.

All which being done in times of Peace, could only be intended to impoverish and disable our Merchants Trade and Nation, notwithstanding their pretence of carrying Enemies Goods; this is evident as well from the said *Edit*, and from the Nature of the whole Transaction, as by another *Edit* set forth by the *French* King about the same time, giving Liberty of Trade to any Nation (without exception) that would take *French* Passes; for it being foreseen that the *English* would not take any, because of the *English* Claim to the Sovereignty of the Seas, it left other Nations then at enmity with *France*, at Liberty to take Passes, and by Consequence to Trade; who accordingly did, and traded without controul, particularly the *Dutch*: So did the *Swedish* Ships at the same time openly Trade to and from *Holland*, and other Countries then at enmity with *France*; without any Disturbance from the *French* Capers.

This might administer further Considerations; I shall only at present accommodate it to the Matter in question, being the Overbalance of Trade; which must needs have been the higher upon us, as our Merchants

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received

received more Injuries and Losses of this Nature.

To this I shall add, that it is an incredible Sum of Money which our English Gentlemen and Travellers of all sorts spend yearly in *France*, to learn unprofitable Apish affected *French* Fashions, and Modes in their Carriage, Talk, Cloaths, Eating and Drinking. It is below any

of these *English Mounseurs* to enquire into the Trade of *France*; This Expence is not near ballanced by the Expence of the *French* Travelling Gentry, or others in *England*; the *French* that come hither, being ordinarily such as come to get *Estates* by vending *French* Manufactures, Wines and other Commodities, Dancing, Cookery, &c. and when they are grown Rich, do generally Transport themselves, and their Estates into *France*, and so Spirit away our Wealth.

Many of these Losses by the *French*, being not comprised in the former instances, require a further ample Valuation. 000000

I believe other instances may be given of the late Increase of our Importations, our National Luxury and folly being such, that our Merchants 000000

find

find a home-Vent for almost all sorts of Foreign Goods and trifles in the Universe: These I leave to be added by the observation of others.

In the mean time, considering what the utmost gain of our Trade might be, during the 76 years mentioned in the Accompt from the Mint, it must be evident from what I have already said, that we have been *Overballanced* many 100000*l. per Annum*, of later years. The Particulars I have mentioned in this, and the last Section, being such as have happened, or worked more signally and vigorously upon us during the years mentioned in the said Accompt; which (that I may prevent Alterations) I shall endeavour to clear, by a brief *Deduction* of our Trade during the same 76 years, which I cannot do without some Relation to the *French* and *Dutch* Trades; of whose *Rise* and *Growth*, and their Consequential Increase of *Strength* and *Power*, I shall therefore also give some Accompt.

I shall begin with that of the *English*:

Before the *Dutch* were cemented into States, the *English* had far greater Advantages in Trade than any Neighbour Nation, by the greater Plenty of our more excellent Oak-Timber, *Vitnals*, Numbers of Seamen, home-Materials of Manufacture, our great Woollen-Manufactures, our Fishery, and other our valuable

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Commodities mentioned before: Besides the *German, Flemish, and French Trades*. That of the *Sound*, and *Streights*, our Adventurous Merchants and Mariners in *Edw.* the Sixth's time Discovered the North-East Passage by Sea to *Muscovy*, which Trade was before driven by the Merchants of the *Hans-Towns* a-cross the *Baltick*: Such was our good success, that by the great Commerce our Merchants brought, and by the Embassies and Applications of our succeeding Princes, especially *Queen Elizabeth*, the *Czar* granted them a *Free Trade* at his Port *Archangel*, (that is) without paying any *Impost*; which he would not grant to others: whereby the *English* became possessed of the whole Trade of a great Advantage; besides which, our Woollen-Manufactures were not a little improved in Bulk and Value, by means of those *Flemings* or *Walloons* driven out by the Duke of *Alva*, and entertained by *Queen Elizabeth*; spoken of before.

In this Condition was our Trade when the *Dutch* United Provinces came to a Settlement, being about 90 Years since; the *Dutch* hereupon found themselves obliged to study all Imaginable wayes of Gain by Trade; For the People driven into these Provinces by the *Spanish Tyranny and Persecution for Religion*, were very Numerous, the Countrey very narrow and yielding little of the *Necessaries of life*, and
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the Long and Continual Charge of their War with *Spain* very great; from which *Necessity* followed much *Contrivance* and *Industry*, and thence those *Arts and easy Methods of Trade* which have wrought so great Changes in most Parts of *Europe*, if not throughout the World.

First there followed these Alterations in the Trade of *Europe*; the *Dutch* fell into a mighty Trade or Employment of carrying and dealing from Port to Port, far beyond what was ever used in these Parts before; which Trade they engrossed, beating out the *Antwerpians, English*, and all others, Except in what related to *Muscovy*, (secured to the *English* by our Privileges there) and what related to *Spain* during their Wars with that Crown; the *Portuguese*, having before found out the way by Sea to the *East-Indies*, and having by that cheaper passage beat the *Venetians* out of that Trade, and planted mighty Factories and Forces in the *Indies*; the *Dutch* before, the Year 1600, being informed of the Riches of that Commerce by one *Cornelius Houtman* a fugitive from the *Portuguese*, engaged in a Trade thither, and in the Year 1602, by the Authority of their Union, established their *East-India Company*; who upon their original Fund, being 600000 *l. Sterling*, made to great a progress in that Trade, that besides several Considerable Dividends before made, upon a Com-
pute

pute in the Year 1608, their Stock was increased to Three Millions Sterling: and in this great Carriere very speedily supplanted the *Portuguese* in this Trade; their success was little less in the Fishing Trade for *White Herrings, Ling and Codfish* on the Coasts of *England and Scotland*, which they extended beyond what we ever did, incroaching daily on the *English*, being enabled thereto by their more easie Methods of Trade; and the *English* the more disabled by our Application to the Plantation-Trade in the time of King *James*, whereof the Wife Sir *Walter Raleigh*, by the occasion of his Travels, taking notice, about 60 years since gave a Caution of it to King *James*, shewing the Reasons, and proving that the *Dutch* then got 1372000 l. per Annum Sterling by this Trade, by the Accompts he took at several Ports, (and yet he mentions not their Trade in the *Streights*, and but one Port in *France*, viz. *Rouen*;) notwithstanding which, the *Dutch* still getting advantages upon us, had near beaten us out before the end of King *James* his Reign; and soon after became Compleat Masters of it.

Thus was this our *Fishing-Trade*, of great and certain Profit, and of high Importance for the Support of our Navigation and Coasts, supplanted; in the place of this, we had our *Plantation-Trade*, of which having spoken so much before,

before, I shall say no more, than that it brought in great Customes: Yet, not forgetting, that King *James* succeeding Queen *Elizabeth*, (who to reduce the late portentous greatness of the *Austrian* Family, had supported the *Dutch*) made a Peace with *Spain*, which gave the *English* a particular Advantage in the Trade of *Spain* for a time, viz. till the *Dutch* made a Peace with that Crown; and since that hath continued a very beneficial Market for many of our Commodities, being there vended for ready-money: Our Trade to *Muscovy* remained secured to us by our Privilege there, and our Clothing Trade by our Wooll, and the ignorance of other Nations in that Manufacture. We had a remaining Fishery at *Greenland, Ise-land, and Newfoundland*; we continued some other Exports of lesser Note mentioned before; but the Woollen-Manufacture being our chief Jewel, we kept the Monopoly of it during the Reign of King *James*, and for the greatest part of the Reign of King *Charles* the first, and generally raised the prices; by all which, and for that our Imports were less than of late they have been, the Ballance of our Trade, during the Reigns of these Princes, was kept up to the degree, we may Compute it by the Accompt from the Mint, which though somewhat, was but a narrow scantling, considering how prodigioussly the *French* and *Dutch* Trades were impro-

improved and grew up by us continually; yet have we since lost, or much Impaired all these principal Advantages in Trade, as I have already shewn.

Before I shew how these Limbs of our Trade became so much disabled, it will be necessary to observe what Influence the Dutch Trade had upon the French.

All the *Exportable Commodities* of any Note the French formerly, and till this last Age pretended to, were *Corn, Wine, and Salt*: whereof that of Corn was as Considerable as any; the other two being but sparingly Exported, at least in Comparison of what have been Vended of late Years: besides these, they had *Skins, Tallow, and Wood*, and some Fruits of little Consequence; which whole Trade could bring in no great matter.

But the Dutch being ravenous after Trade, and like Bees thrusting themselves into every Creek and Corner for Commodities to sell again, and barter away for Profit, presently gave a far mightier Vent to the French Wines, with which they not only plentifully supplied most other Nations, but drank good store themselves, being their principal *Home-Consumption*; of Salt they took off yet greater quantities, not only for present Merchandize, but to use in their prodigious Fishery. As the Vent of these grew greater, more were provided

ed in France; hence also did their *Infant-Manufactures* of Linnen, Silk, Paper, Brandy, and those Numbers of others enumerated by Mr. Fortrey, and doubtless many more, grow up to *Gyants*; the hungry French tasting the sweet of the Gain, did not fail to supply this busie People, though doubtless not without the Conduct of an extraordinary Wisdom; Since 'tis apparent, that the Dutch manner of Trading made the same Overtures to other Neighbour Nations; the

See before in
Section the 7th.
Pag.

wife Sir Walter Raleigh observed how free and easie they had made their Commerce by lowering their Customes and Duties; they let in the French Protestants by a Toleration, and carefully Superintended the Increase of their Manufactures. Thus as the French Shop came to have more things of *Delicacy and Variety*, it drew in more Customers, and the English amongst the rest; and as a great part of Trade is driven in *Fantastical Dresses*, and Toys of many sorts, the French took care to provide an Abundance, with which they galled the rest of the World: Hence were their *Princes* at first called *Fashion-mongers*; but they did not rest there, they soon became *Portentous Tradesmen* in the most solid and valuable Commodities in the World, and thence *Lord Mayors* of the Continent; doubtless the present French King thinks it his high Concern, and

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and values himself upon it, of which we have an Evidence in his nice and early looking into his great *Shop-Books* or Entries, to find out the *Balance* of his Trade with *England*, and by making his *Shop easie* in the Approach; viz. by his increasing his *free Ports*, (for in truth, it would be a very strange Project of Gain, for a Tradesman to set a Toll on every man that comes in at his Door) the same appears by an hundred other instances.

Thus have the *Dutch* in a blind pursuit of their particular Interests, built up a *Prodigie of Power*, which (having of late propagated a great Navigation of its own, as I shall more particularly shew) is now so swelling, and of so *Serpentine* a Nature, that it is ready to devour those who first gave it life.

The yearly value of the late and present *Exports* from *France*, may be computed by what the *English* only took off, which supposing to be more moderate than Mr. *Fortrey* Reports, (which yet I do not admit) viz. but *two Millions Sterling*, what a vast yearly Sum must it amount to? Since there is great reason to think, and I speak upon the best Authority I can meet with, that the *Dutch* have taken off *seven or eight times* more yearly than the *English*; For besides the mighty quantities of *Salt, Wine, and Brandy* which they themselves Consume, they Export vastly more of these,

these, and *All other French Commodities* to other Nations; the *French Trade* being indeed the *principal Foundation* of most of the ordinary *Dutch Trade from Port to Port*.

Besides the *Dutch*, the *Hamburgers, Lubbeckers, Swedes, Danes*, and most or all other Mercantile Nations in this Part of the World, do yearly Freight themselves at the *French Ports*, (which must be one reason, and perhaps as yet the principal, why the *French Language* is become so *Universal*;) whilst the *French* take very little Consumptive Commodity from these, nor yet from the *Dutch* or *English*, but *East-India Spice, Callicoos, &c.* a Trade which the *French King* hath also manifestly designed to engage in, by an Association and Contribution of Stock in *France*, and his Attempts to get footing in divers places of the *East-Indies*; some time will shew what his Success may be, or whether at a *Lump*, he hopes to Unite the *Dutch Trade* and Strengths in those Parts to himself, by an Union of the *Dutch Provinces* and their Navigation to his present Empire; and whether then our *English Factories* there, will be able to preserve themselves against daily Violations, and utter Extirpation. In the mean time upon what hath been said, let the Reader compute, how many Millions Sterling must already yearly enter into *France*, by the Annual Vent of so Prodigious

Prodigious a Store of Commodities; it must be much the better part of *Twenty Millions*. I find it affirmed by a small Piece lately Printed, Intituled, *An Account of the French Usurpations upon England*; which seems Written by a man of good Judgment, That from the Northern Countries only, the *French Wines* now bring in 25 Millions of *Florens*; their *Salt*, 10 Millions of *Florens*; *Brandy*, 5 Millions; their *Silks*, *Stuffs*, *Tôyes*, and *Fripperies*, 40 Millions of *Florens* more. What then do the *French* receive from all the other Regions of the World, for these, and other things?

All which hath been visible in the gradual Increase of the *French Power*, from the time the *Dutch Provinces* began to Trade. It must be admitted that both before and since the *French Monarchy* became Absolute (this being a great and populous Nation) was able to bring Considerable Armies into the Field; but they could get little or no ground by Arms on any of their Neighbours, or soon lost what they got: The People were abject and recreant; and more the Ridicule, than the terror of their Neighbours, the *English* and *Spanish* Treasures and Strengths were notoriously too big for them; the *English* Conquered them several times; the *Spaniards* more lately beat them out of *Navarre*, *Naples*, and *Milan*, and by their Faction in *France*, drove *Henry* the 3d.

out

out of *Paris*, and most of his other best Cities, and afterwards not above 80 years since supported the *Holy League* with Arms and Money against *Henry* the 4th, under the Conduct of the *Duke of Mayence*; both which Princes fell by the hands of *Priests*; for the *Spaniards* were then the strongest side. This Superiority of the *Spanish Power*, made all the Kings of *France* from *Charles* the 8th, to *Lewis* the 13th inclusive, glad to seek a Support from the *English*; and the more to endear themselves, got to be *Knights of the Garter* (except *Francis* the 2d. a King of one year, and no more) these were, *Lewis* the 12th, *Francis* the 1st, *Henry* the 2d, *Charles* the 9th, and the said *Henry* the 3d, and the 4th; if we go higher to *Lewis* the 11th, who next preceded *Charles* the 8th, we may Compute his Treasure and Grandure by a Reckoning found *Hylin's Geogr.*
236. in the Chamber of Accounts at *Paris*, of 2 s. for new Sleeves to his old Doublet, and three Half-pence for Liquor to grease his Boots; 'Tis like he was the poorer, because he and the rest paid a kind of Tribute of 50000 Crowns per Annum to the King of *England* for 100 years together; before this, they were almost continually wasted by the *English*, till our Diffentions at home called our Forces away, leaving *Charles* the 7th, Predecessor of this *Lewis* the 11th, to take Possession of what he pleased; except *Calais*.

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But soon after the *French* Ports were frequented by the *Dutch* Navigation, we find the State of *France* begin to alter; the said *Henry* the 4th, having reduced the Holy League, grew a *Mighty Prince*, added *la Bresse, Bearne, and Basc*

He began his Reign in the year 1589. and Reigned till 1610.

Next *Lewis* 13th, who died 1642. and since, the present *Lewis* the 14th.

Navarre to the Crown, and enjoyed a 10 years Peace, though at last Murthered. *Lewis* the 13th. was yet more powerful; besides the Reduction of the *Huguenots*, and of above 300 Walled Towns then in their hands, he added or revested to that Crown, the Dukedoms of *Barre, and Lorrain*, and other acquets in *Germany, Italy, the Belgick Provinces*, and other parts of the *Spanish* Dominions; in which, and in *Italy*, he was able at once to maintain five Royal Armies in the Field; keeping no less than 120000 Men in Pay and Action for many years together, besides his Garrisons; and yet is the Power of *France* since vastly increased, whereof every man is or has reason to be sensible. I shall refer the particular Consideration of it till the last Section.

In the mean time, I shall only add what I find in *Dr. Heylin's Book of Geography*, p. 238, (who being to give an Account of the Revenue of that Country) tells us, That *Lewis* 'the 11th, gathered one Million, and an half of

'Crowns,

'Crowns, *Francis* the 1st. brought them to 'three Millions; his Successor *Henry* the 2^d. to 'six; *Charles* the 9th. to seven; *Henry* the 3^d. 'to ten; *Henry* the 4th. from two to five Millions, Sterling. This he attributes merely to the more Despotical Power, and greater Tyranny of the later Princes; and might be so in some measure: For in the time of *Charles* the 7th. whilst in War with the *English*, there was an Act by the Three *French* Estates, that the King might raise Money in case of Necessity; which Power, 'tis likely was not at first used so moderately as it was after: However we cannot think *Henry* the 4th. could leap from two Millions to five Millions Sterling, without a great Importation of Treasure, which does not grow on the Peoples backs like Wooll; the advance of the *French* Trade and Treasure, being the true Reason, we may believe the Revenue of *Lewis* the 13th. was raised to more than double this, viz. Ten Millions Sterling; and that since it is doubled again, viz. Twenty Millions, (as good Judges of it as I can meet with say, 'tis now above Twenty Millions Sterling) For the Treasures of the World being drawn into *France*, as into a Gulf, must awfully advance that King's Revenue, and diminish the Treasures of other Nations; which 'tis probable is partly the Cause that the Price of most Commodities in *Europe* are sunk; since

according to the former Maxims, if there be less Money in the hands of other Trading Nations than before, they must and will buy for less.

Having thus far pursued the Growth of the *French Trade*, and *Power*; I shall now return to the *English*, as they were invested with the several Trades before mentioned in the time of our two last Kings, *viz.* King *James*, and King *Charles* the First, and shall endeavour to shew, First, how we come to lose the Monopoly of the *Woollen Manufacture*; which was the Effect of many Concurring Causes; the *Dutch* were generally vigilant after all Trade, and particularly this, so much they shared with us long before, that they Dyed, Dressed, and Vended vast quantities of our white Cloaths Exported thither, by which they made an incredible Gain. Sir *Walter Raleigh* about 60 years since, in his Observations on Trade presented to King *James*, proves, *England* in 55 years, had lost 55 Millions of Pounds by the *Dutch* Dyeing and Dressing our white Cloaths; But withal, the *Dutch* by their vast Navigation and Universal Trading, gave them a greater vent than we otherwise could do, unless by an equal Regulation of our Trade, the *English* had been made as Capable; without any thing of that, this course was taken; one Sir *William Kockayne*, and other Merchants, hoping to make

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an advantage to themselves, got a Patent for the Dyeing and Dressing of our Cloaths, with Power to hinder the Exportation of our white Cloaths; wherein we have our two usual Expedients in Trade, *viz.* a *Restraint to a Company*, and a *Prohibition*; by which our Vent was lessened, and the *Dutch* the more provoked to attempt this Manufacture at home; to which they had great encouragement by their *Situation* for the Trade of *Germany*; and the rather because our *Hamburgh Company*, who by their Patent have the sole Trade on that Coast, for about six or seven hundred Miles, kept but two Staples, *viz.* at *Hamburgh* and *Dort*, remote from each other, and from many of those Countries which they supplied: So as many of those who come to our Markets, must pass and repass, through several Principalities with much Danger, and Payments of Tolls and Taxes; and besides, we raised our Prices, and set such terms on the Buyers, that others as well as the *Dutch*, were much dissatisfied; whereupon an Opportunity was offered: For about the year 1636. Two hundred Families of our Manufacturers being about to forsake *Norfolk* and *Sussex*, and Transport themselves to our Plantations, by reason of the then Persecution of Dissenters, the *Dutch* invited them into *Holland*, where the *Dutch* did not only entertain them, but in *Leyden*, *Alkmaar*, and

P 3

other

other places, planted them Rent-free, and Ex-cise-free, seven years. After these went more and more *Colonies*, which settled at *Rotterdam*, *Middleburgh*, and *Flushing*, where a fourth part of the Inhabitants are *English*, or of *English* Extraction: Besides vast numbers of *English* dispersed elsewhere in those *Provinces*.

The *Dutch* having gotten the Manufacturers, had half done their work; they wanted nothing but *Wool*, which if they might have on any tolerable Terms, their Advantages in the way of Trade, must enable them to out-doe us, this they Imported from *Spain*, *England*, and *Ireland*, and elsewhere, falling amain upon the Woollen Manufactures of all sorts; so that about the year 1640. they pretended to something of a Cloth Trade in *Germany*, and soon afterwards took occasion to supply our *Eastland* and *Northern* Markets more and more; especially with *fine Cloth*; getting ground upon us continually, they bought our Wools dearer at first, but have gradually sunk the Prices; our Vigilant Neighbours, the *French*, started with them, or soon followed their Example, as did the *Flemmings*, the *Silefians*, *Polanders*, and some others mentioned before; by all which, these and other Parts of the World were as much supplied with coarse *Cloths*, *Druggets*, and *Stuffs*; but the *Dutch* would not rest here; Trade was their business, and they observed, the

the virtue of ours (such as we had) depended wholly on *Accidents*, and particularly that of *Muscovy* on our *Privilege*; which therefore they found ways to evacuate, by bestowing Money amongst the *Grandees* of that Court, and furnishing them with an Objection against our Merchants, as being *Londoners*, and therefore (as they insinuated) must be concerned as Actors in the horrid Murder of His late *Sacred Majesty*, which it was in vain for our Merchants to dispute, when the Judges were Fee'd on the other side; this powerful Metal (whereof the *Dutch* are never sparing on such occasions, and therein have a farther advantage upon us) had so radicated their Interests with the *Boyers*, that notwithstanding all Applications in an Honourable Embassy to the *Great Czar* from his now *Sacred Majesty*, by the *Earl of Carlisle*, our *Privilege* could never be regained.

Soon after this, there followed two things convenient to be taken notice of for the prevention of misapprehensions on either side; one was, that between the year (50) and (60) we had an Accidental Opportunity of increasing our Treasure with the loss of our People, viz. by the Stocking *Ireland* with Inhabitants, and Cattle, after the Reduction of the *Irish* Rebels, and by furnishing it with all sorts of Goods and Necessaries, then much consumed or spoiled by the Wars and Disorders there;

which on a sudden, brought us almost all the Treasures of Ireland; which supposing but a Million and an half, or but a Million, was considerable.

Another, which prevented us of as much Money as we thus got, if not of more, and doubtless exhausted us of some; In the year 1654. the late Usurper *Oliver Cromwell* (whose guilty fears made him Jealous of the *English*, and seek a support from *France*) did in Conjunction with *France* make a fatal War upon *Spain*; which, besides the seizure of our *Spanish* effects, and our vast Losses at Sea in that War, interrupted our Trade with *Spain*, and gave the *Dutch* better footing, but opened our *French* Trade; at once weakning the Balance of our Trade, and the Balance of all Europe.

Thus it was before the year 1660. But in regard our Imports were then of far less quantity and value than they were after, 'tis presumable that our Trade might be yet beneficial; especially considering our then *Irish* Trade; but our Importations increasing, we find what Mr. *Mun*, a *Principal English Merchant* thought of it, by what he saith in his

Page 61. Book of Trade, Printed in (63.) But, as appears by the Preface, was Written some time before; the words are these, "The whole Trade of the Realm for Exportations

"tions and Importations
"is now found to be about
"the yearly value of four
"Millions and a half of
"Pounds; It may be
"yet increased 200000 *l.*
"more by the Importations and Consumption of Foreign Wares,
"by this means we know the King shall be a
"Gainer near 20000 *l.* (*viz.* by the Customs;) 000000
"but the Common-wealth would lose the
"whole 200000 *l.* and the King shall be sure
"in the end to have the greatest loss, if he do
"not prevent such unthrifty courses as do impoverish his People. By which words, I take it as very plain, that before he wrote, our Exportations and Importations were computed to stand even; which is the more enforced by the latter words, *viz.* "That the Common-wealth would lose the whole 200000 *l.* the
"People be impoverished, and the King the greatest loser at last.

Then if we compute our Losses since (60), nay, or (63), *viz.* By the means of the Acts of Navigation, which (though first begun by the *Rump*, to the prejudice of Trade in their time) have been since made Laws, and continued to our greater and daily growing prejudice.

By

By all our direct and Consequent Losses from the *Irish* Acts mentioned before. } 000000

By the Loss or decay of our *Scotch* Trade. } 000000

By the Stop of our Exported Cloathing into *France*. } 000000

By the setting up of more Woollen Manufactures in *Portugal*, *Swedeland*, and the *Palatinate*, (to which last Countrey went some Thoulands of our Manufacturers within less than Twenty years) and by the Increase of these, and of the *Silebian*, *Polonian*, *Dutch*, *French*, and *Flemmish* Woollen Manufactures ever since, by which our Vent must be answerably Contracted. } 000000

By the continual sinking of the Foreign Price of our Cloathing. } 000000

By the decay of our *Iseland*, *Greenland*, and *Newfound-Land* Fishing-Trades. } 000000

By the sinking of the Foreign Price of our other Exports mentioned before. } 000000

And lastly, in a Lump by a continual vast Increase of our Importations of all Sorts and Species mentioned in this Section, with an Exportation

tation

tation of Treasure answerable to the Whole.

Our Overballance appears to me to be so much of late years, that it might be wondrous how any of our late Treasures could yet remain amongst us, did we not also Consider that our Trade by degrees, in length of time, had before the year (60) brought a great Treasure into *England*, and that these our latest Prejudices and Losses have not been working upon us many years. But if the Overballance continue, it must soon sweep away what remains; which Mr. *Fortrey* Prophetically foretold in these words:

"Hereby it may appear how insensibly our Treasures must be exhausted, and our Nation Beggared, whilst we carelessly neglect our own Interests, and Strangers abroad are diligent to make their advantages upon us.

Sir *William Temple*, in his excellent Treatise of the *Dutch* does preface the like.

Having laid it as a Ground, That "Whatever the Exportation wants in value, to Ballance, the Importation must
 "of necessity be made up with ready Money; he tells us, That by this we find out the Foundation of the Riches of *Holland*, as of their Trade, by Circumstances already rehearsed; for never any Countrey Traded so much, and consumed so little; they buy infinitely, but 'tis to sell again, either upon Improvement

pag. 231, 232,
234

"provement of the Commodity (*viz.* by Manufacture) or at a better Market: (*viz.* in the Trade from Port to Port).

"By all this Account of their Trade and Riches, it will appear that some of our Maxims are not so certain, as they are Current in our Common Policks: As first, That the example and *encouragement of Excess and Luxury*, if employed in the Consumption of Native Commodities, is of advantage to Trade; the Custom or humour of Luxury, and Expence cannot stop at certain bounds; what begins in Native, will proceed in Foreign Commodities; and though the example rise among idle Persons, yet the Imitation will run into all degrees, even of those, by whose Industry the Nation subsists: and besides, the more of our own we spend, the less we shall have to send abroad; and so it will come to pass that while we drive a vast Trade, yet by buying much more than we sell, we shall come to be poor.

"Whereas, when we drive a very final Traffick abroad, yet by selling so much more than we bought, we were very Rich in proportion to our Neighbours. This appeared in Edward the Third's time, when he maintained so mighty Wars in France, and carried our Victorious Arms into the heart of Spain, Whereas in the 28th year of that King's Reign, the

the Value and Custom of all our Exported Commodities, amounted to 294184*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* and that of our Imported, but 38970*l.* 03*s.* 06*d.*; so as there must have entered that year into the Kingdom, in Coin or Bullion, or else have grown a Debt to the Nation, 255214*l.* 13*s.* 08*d.* and yet we then carried out our Woolls unwrought, and brought in a great part of our Cloaths from Flanders.

Whence Two things may be remarked: First, That 'tis much in vain to increase the value of our Exports, if at the same time we increase our Imports to a yet greater value, being now (perhaps) an 100 times more than value.

Secondly, That although Edward the Third, revived the Order of the Round Table, he did not perform his great Atchievements by the meer virtue of Knight Errantry; there is no doubt but our succeeding Princes were enabled to make their Conquests in France, by the advantages of our former Trade, then far more considerable than the French.

I shall only add, that this Consumption by our Importations, will not be prevented, but rather augmented by our late Prohibition of French Goods; as I shall demonstrate in the last Section.

S E C T.

SECT. XIII.

That a Considerable part of our late Treasure is exhausted: Application to our Publick and Private Revenues: Objections Answered, viz. The Plenty of Money to be let on Securities, Stores of Money in London, Stocks in Merchandize, the Over-weightiness of our Coin, &c.

After what hath been said, it may seem little requisite to enquire whether Mr. Fortrey Prophesied a-right, when he foretold the Exhausting of our Treasure.

If the Diffusive Body of the People be much Poorer than before, they have much less Treasure than before; For Poverty is but the privation of Treasure. Now if the Question be whether the Nation be Poorer, it must be undeniable from all those Badges of Poverty I have mentioned before, if any of those particular Men who find themselves *at ease*, are yet unwilling to believe it, they may be further convinced from the universal Cries of the People, (at least from the Land-holders, remaining Manufacturers, and their Dependants who make up the gross and stanch Body of the Nation) they remember when it was otherwise, when there

there was a far greater plenty of Money in all our inferiour Cities, Corporations, and Villages; when our Farmers had their Rents before hand, and had Stocks for every Farm; when they and our Manufacturers got Estates, and when vast Taxes could be readily raised; and therefore are the most proper Judges of the odds, who feel the present Scarcity, and want of Money; they cannot conspire in a Falsity of this Nature, but in so general and near a Concern, The Voice of the People hath been taken to be like the *Speech of God*. Those that find their Stocks wasted, or much Contracted, their late Revenues sunk, their home-Commodities yield much less value, their labours in Manufactures turn to less Profit, or to none at all, the poor and their Maintenances vastly increased, the Nation involved in Debts, Money very hard to be gotten or raised in the way of home-Trade, with other Common hardships, cannot be argued out of their Senses; *Crede quod habes & habes*, is no Logick in matters of Interest, but amongst Fools and Madmen; or let Men be never so good at persuading or believing, yet when their Estates and Stocks are thus sunk, they cannot answer the Publick Emergencies by Payment of as great Taxes as before.

I should not say more to prove our National Treasure is much diminished, (taking it to

to be indisputable; and being sensible, that the over-labouring a Truth, may bring it in question) but having something to offer, by which (as it seems to me) some nearer Conjecture may be made of the Quantity of Money thus exhausted, I shall present it to the Reader, desiring his Excuse, if he think it unnecessary.

So great was the Quantity of our late *Harp and Cross Money*, before the year (60) that according to the best Estimate I can make or meet with, it made about 10 or 15 *per Cent.* of our Common Money in tale in the *Countrey*, and more in *London*, which I do not take to be the meer Effect of our extraordinary Exports in Trade, for the years then last preceding, but partly of the Plate then lately Coined, and our Stocking *Ireland*; but more than either, from our far less yearly Imports of all kinds several years before 1660.

I must refer it to the Memory, or other Information of the Reader, whether he can comply with me in the aforesaid late quantity of our *Harp and Cross Money*; whatsoever it were, this Money being taken in to be recoined in the year (60) must, when recoined, produce the like Quantity of His *Majestie's Coin*; besides which, according to the said Account in *November* (75) there had then been 2238997 *l.* more Coined since His *Majestie's Restoration*,
and

and since the said Account, there hath been yet more Coyned; which supposing to be but 600000 *l.* had the Money so Recoyned, and since Coyned with His now *Majestie's Impression*, continued in the Nation, and the new Money under His *Majestie's Impression*, must have been much above Three Millions, I conceive near Four Millions; and then supposing we had Twelve Millions in the Nation, it would have been above 30 *per Cent.* of our current Money in Tale; of more, were our whole *Treasure* less than Twelve Millions.

Whereas we see at this day, that the new Money of His now *Majestie's Impression*, does not amount to above 5 *per Cent.* of the current Money in the *Countrey*, taking one Payment with another, (especially in such Counties as lye any thing remote from *London*) I think not so much.

'Tis true, that in *London*, where the Mint and Merchants are, there is some greater quantity of new Money, and perhaps somewhat more of late than usually; because that by occasion of the late *Foreign Wars*, we have had somewhat a better Vent for our *English Cloths*, and a greater Exportation of our *Annual produce* of Corn: But yet in *London* it does not make near 30 *per Cent.* taking one Payment with another; nor I conceive, more than equal the quantity of our late *Harp and Cross Money*.

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Now

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Now if the Money in *His now Majesties Impression*, be less in quantity than the *Harp and Cross Money*, it must follow, that notwithstanding all the Money since Coyned, we have less Money in the Nation than we had in (59;) if our present new Coyn but equal the *Harp and Cross Money*, it follows, that we have now no more Money than in (59). And in either Case, that as much of our new Coyn as amounts to the said whole 2238997 *l.* and all the other Money Coyned since *November (75)* is also Exported: For though we may still have some Coyn of each of the succeeding years since (59;) yet if all of it put together amounts to no more than the quantity of the *Harp and Cross Money* we had in (59;) our Stock of *Treasure* cannot be more than it was in (59;) if less, then our present Stock is less.

And if Millions of our *new Money*, Coyned since (59) be gone, as, I take it, 'tis evident they are; we may reasonably Collect that as much or more of *our old Coyn*, is also Exported (by the old Coyn, I mean such as was Coyned in the Reigns of King *James* and King *Charles* the First, and before) of which we had lately a mighty Store, almost all of it valuable and unclipped, especially *the Gold*, whereof we had an abundance commonly passing in home-Trade and Payments, there is no reason why these Coyns, being as valuable or more, should

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should not be as good a Commodity in Trade as the new.

And accordingly we may to our Comforts observe, that this late mighty Store of *old Gold*, is in a manner totally vanished, those few pieces which remain, being almost taken as Medals, never to be parted with.

If it be said that part of our old Gold is Coyned into Guinies, this will not alter the Case, since our whole new Coyn is no more in proportion to the old, than before is noted.

So of our old Silver Coyn, there is very little remaining, but what is much Clipped, or worn; and therefore not valuable for Exportation. We have those yet alive who can remember what a flowing *Treasure* we had in all Parts of *England*, before we had any *Harp and Cross Money*, and are now sensible of the general scarcity and Want of it.

This does let in a further Presumption, that our new Coyn is diminished to a much greater degree, than it appears to be: For, suppose we have now but a moiety of all the old Coyn we had in the year (59), 'Tis plain, that a moiety of the *Harp and Cross Money* (had it remained) would now hold the same proportion to the old, as the whole did in (59), and so will a moiety of our new Coyned Money; and thus will it be in any lesser proportions.

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If the new Coyn come to be *less in proportion* to the old, than it was before, it is an infallible evidence of the *Diminution* of our Treasure, because the old Coyn *could not increase*; But if the new Coyn come to be *more in proportion* to the old Coyn than before, this is no manner of Demonstration of the increase of Treasure, since the decrease of the old Coyn may produce this Odds.

Thus after the Consumption of our old Gold, we have more than Twenty Guineys to one Broad Piece; but I think no body will press it as an Argument of more Gold in the Nation than we lately had; so having lost so great a part of our valuable old Silver Coyn, 'tis no Wonder if our new Silver Coyn seems so much as it doth, especially about *London*; perhaps it hath been a kind of Providence that we have had so much Clipt and worn Money; since otherwise we might have had as little old Silver, as we have old Gold; and might have been reduced to our present Store of new Silver Coyn, as we are to our Guineys, which might have afforded a weighty Argument of the Increase of our Treasure.

Upon these Grounds, and upon the common Wants, Necessities, and Decays mentioned before, it may reasonably be concluded, That besides the loss of most of those Millions Coyned since His Majestie's Restauration,

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we have lost many more Millions of the old Coyn in Silver and Gold; I shall leave the quantity to be computed by the indifferent Reader: Those who set out the said Account from the Mint, taking notice of the great consumption of our Treasure by reason of its being Exported, did by the same Paper, then estimate it to be reduced to about four or five Millions, and by the Nature of that Account, they seem no unfit Persons to make some competent Judgment of this Matter.

Whatsoever our Coyned Treasure was when this Account was made, 'twas plainly much less then, than it would have been, had none been Exported; and though it must be admitted, that our late Exportation of our Annual Corn, and what other advantages we had during the late War, may have somewhat helped us, yet we have reason to think it farther diminished now, especially considering our losses at Sea by the *Dutch*, and others, before we disengaged from the late War, and since by the *French* and *Algiers* Pirates, and the money lately and daily exported by *Papists* departed hence; to which may be added what we must now further export by the expiration of the *Irish* Acts, and the dear buying of these goods we imported from *France*, already added to the former Overballance of our Importations.

Then let the Reader judg what we are to

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hope for in our *private and publick Revenues*, I shall only endeavour to put him into a method of conjecturing, leaving the compute to his greater ingenuity and leisure. Suppose we have now 5, 6, or 7 Millions of *Treasure* in the Nation; let him consider how much of this must constantly lye in the *hands of Traders* to attend the payment of Customs, and the buying up of our vast importations; how much always is, and must be *actually collected in Taxes*, and either lies in the *Exchequer*, or in the hands of Officers; and how much does, and always will lye dead in *Banks* and other private hands; and then, how much will at the same time (*I say at the same time*) be employed in the home-Markets to buy of the annual *Produce of Lands*; perhaps it will not be half of the Whole: Then recollecting that we have 29568000 Acres of Land in *England*, what *Rent* can they yield, one with the other. Admitting this whole *Treasure* at the same time stirring in the home-Markets, our whole Land-Revenues could not be much; all the help we have is, that we have many *great wasts*, which yielding little or nothing, a great quantity of this floating money is applicable to the rest; and yet to our sorrow we have found that our *Rents* are mightily sunk, which having not abated so much or speedily as was requisite, our *Yecomanry* are generally impoverished.

Then

Then for our *publick Revenue*, 'tis as plain, it must be confined to the stock of *Treasure* be it greater or less. We have many who seem to resent the narrowness of his Majesty's Revenue and Supplies, and are ready to expostulate why they should not be equal to the *French King's*; let them consider what may possibly be paid out of our Land Revenues thus contracted, and constantly charged with the maintenance of our numerous poor; and besides, that the *English* having by the constitutions of the Government an undoubted *liberty and property*, are accustomed to live well, and their Representatives, being a part of themselves, in whose disposition it lies to give supplies or not, will have regard to their own and the peoples abilities: should they give extravagantly it would be like *Diego's Will*, and must induce many of those sad consequences mentioned before; what then if we should be involved in any long Foreign War, or obliged to any great extraordinary publick Charge in time of Peace, whilst we remain under a consumptive Trade? which I intimate once more to shew the necessity of improving our Trade.

I shall now answer some common Objections.

The most usual is, That there is now *as much money to be let on good Securities* in England, as there are *Securities*, or rather more; from

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whence some infer that there is as much, or more money than ever in *England*.

To this I answer, That on the contrary, it only proves the scarcity of Securities, and therein the poverty of the Nation; for *personal Security* for money being in a manner lost; all the floating money to be let out at interest is thrust upon Land-Securities; which (were they all good) would take off much less money than was let out at interest when both Land and Personal Securities stood: But, as the National Poverty hath subverted Personal Security, so hath it crept into the Land; for mens estates are already so entangled with Debts, that there is not one Land-Security in twenty that is good, as dear experience hath now taught us. Then, the Securities being grown so scarce and narrow, 'tis no wonder that there is now as much money to be let out as there are Securities, and more. Thus if a man had 1000 *l.* in the Isle of *Shetland*, he would there hardly find any Security for it; which at this rate of arguing would prove the Isle of *Shetland* richer than the Isle of *Great Britain*.

And upon this occasion I shall add, That there is no possible way for restoring the Securities and Credits of *England*, but by restoring its Riches; no Register can do it, at least comparable to the other; we may Register our common

common Poverty, but nothing will make an ill man value his credit, or able to satisfy for a Cheat, but his own private wealth; nothing can make a man who is honestly inclined to do a foul thing, but Poverty and Necessity.

Another Objection, partly answered before, is, That *there is still as much money in and about London, as ever*; from whence they would argue as much money in the Nation as before.

I cannot admit this fact; if I did, the consequence is lame and frivolous; however, because there hath been such a potter made about the money in *London*, I shall give some further account of it.

I agree that there are considerable quantities of money always lodging in and about *London*, in some particular hands: But the reason is, because the King's Revenue is paid in, and issued out, in and about *London*. There is also the *Mint*, and there do our principal Merchants live, who Trade with so much exported money or bullion, and keep money dead for the Customs. This is also the great Port for Foreign Importations; and the Country Retailers, who buy them there and vend them to the people, must send up their money to *London*: Upon which and the like occasions, 'tis thought near half the money in *England* is in *London*: The more is the pity; it were much better for the Nation that there were more *home-Manufacture*, with

with Foreign *Stores* of re-exportable Goods, and a less proportion of our money; and the rather because it stagnates for a time in the hands of Merchants, Banquers, and Scriveners; and facilitates the culling, melting, and exportation. This being the great *Sluce* of our *Treasure* will necessarily draw it from all parts, as long as we have any in the Nation.

These *Stores* of money in *London* must rather evidence the poverty of the people, who being over ballanced by the money drawn out for Importations and Taxes, and therefore incapable of answering those payments by Bills or Returns to *London*; very much of our Taxes have been sent up in *Carts and Waggon*s, and our Country Retailers continually send up money in specie *by the Carriers*; which must drain away that which remains, in a little time: Nor do those *Stores* of money much spread, or benefit the general body of Traders, even in *London*; who were never so poor or broke so fast (tho never so *finé*) as now. It is impossible that the occasions, vanities, or the remaining flock of the Kingdom can ever support such a prodigious Increase of Retailers and Shop-keepers as are in and about *London*, being near 100000 in number, when in *Amsterdam* there are not 5000.

Nor is it to be objected, That I have not computed *our present Stores of Merchandize* or Foreign

reign Effects as part of the National wealth.

First, because the present question is about the actual *fruit and produce* of a National Trade in new *Treasure*; and not about the quantity of our *Stores of Merchandize* or Foreign Effects.

'Tis true, That if a Nation whose Trade is truly regulated, hath a great *Store-house* of *Foreign Goods*, as in *Holland*, or great *Foreign effects*, 'tis very possible and likely that these may produce new *Treasure*; and if they do, then is the National gain in *Treasure* to be computed, and not before.

For on the other side 'tis impossible (even in a Nation that hath a due ballance of Trade) that such *Stores* and *Effects* may produce no *Treasure*; for the Foreign *Stores* being re-exported may be lost by the perils of the Sea, or Seizures of Princes or Pirates: we may remember the late seizures of the *English*, by the *French* Capers; the like casualties do attend Foreign Effects, for which we may also remember when our Effects were seized in *Spain*.

But Secondly, Supposing none of those Casualties, yet (as a National Trade may be managed) these stores and Effects shall produce no new *Treasure* to the Nation; as when these Foreign Goods and Stores are, and must be spent at home; and the Foreign Effects are continually by Bills of Exchange, applied to pay

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pay for those Forreign Goods ; so if the Merchants are sometimes forced to Import and Coyn some Forreign Bullion yearly, but yet Export it, or the like quantity of Money or Bullion, the Nation gets nothing ; and if more Treasure be Exported than is yearly Imported, the Nation loses ; in which Case the stock so employed in Trade doth prejudice the wealth of the Nation ; since in the Whole it makes up a monstrous Engin for the Bulgeing out of its Treasure ; and that this hath been the Case of our *English* Trade, is plain enough.

Nor can the *Forreign Stock* in such a Consumptive Trade be of any great value, since as some Effects are gotten by our Merchants in one Forreign Countrey, so are debts contracted in another, as long as our Merchants can have credit ; and then perhaps our Forreign debts may be near the value of our Forreign Effects, and probably more ; or however, cannot be thought equal to our former stock in Trade, when we were not over ballanced.

There are yet other objectors, who admitting much of our Treasure Exported, will excuse our Trade, and assign the cause of it in the *over weightiness of our Coyn*, and the *undervaluing it in our Forreign Bills of Exchange, &c.*

These are old inconsiderate fancies, sufficiently refuted before, yet I should be more particular

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cular in it, had not Mr. *Mun* in his Book of Trade taken the pains to clear this and the like objections by evident reason and instances, in six several Chapters, beginning at *pa.* 62. proving withal, that nothing but the Overbalance of Trade can exhaust the National Treasure ; to which therefore I refer the Reader.

SECT. XIV.

People and Treasure the true Pillars of the National strength : The Odds in the different Use and imployment of people. The absoluteness of the French Monarchy no cause of the present French Grandure : The late Application of the French Councils to the Increase of Trade, People, and Treasure ; and the occasion thereof. The greater excellency of the Form of our English Government. The farther necessity of Improving our Trade from the Modern Treasures and Powers of the French ; of their Naval force, the Algiers Pyrac ; how the French design to engross all Maritime Commerce ; our dangers from France ; of the present condition of the Dutch : That our late Prohibition of French Goods will not disable that Monarchy, nor better our Trade ; meer Prohibitions of no value : Our great advantages in Trade above France

France and Holland : That a speedy Regulation of our Trade &c. would secure us against all Foreign Powers, and Dangers at home : Of Excises, and other Taxes. The certain Increase of his Majesties Revenue ; hence, what occasion for a Parliament, &c.

From what hath been said, it is evident that *National power* is not Chimerical, but is founded on *People and Treasures* ; and that, according to the different condition of these its true Pillars, it immediately grows more vigorous or languid ; that sufficient stores of Treasure cannot otherwise be gotten, than by the industry of the people ; and, That till they have it, they cannot pay.

People are therefore in truth the chiefest, most fundamental, and precious commodity, out of which may be derived all sorts of Manufactures, Navigation, Riches, Conquests, and solid Dominion : This *capital material*, being of it self raw and indigested, is committed into the hands of the Supreme Authority ; in whose prudence and disposition it is, to improve, manage, and fashion it to more or less advantage ; if any individual Manufacturer should permit his *raw materials* to be Exported into Foreign Countreys, or should himself make great store of knots of felters in his Yarn, he would

would soon have a very slender, or difficult business of it : so great an odds there is in the different disposition of the ordinary industry of the people, that on the one hand, they may be thrust on in the pursuit of private interest, destructive to the publick, and be obliged like *Cannibals* to live by devouring one another, (by which they must continually and inevitably wound and weaken the publick :) when on the other, their ordinary labours, more aptly and industriously methodized, shall as unavoidably aggrandize that Government which protects them ; and this without the Midwifery of those Arts, Shifts, and Projections, which otherwise may be found necessary for its more present Support.

More particularly it appears, That the present *French power*, which is now the admiration and terror of the World, hath no other foundation ; and therefore is not derived from the meer *despotick Form* of that Government, as some would insinuate, but from a prudent *Relaxation* of the Rigor of it towards the persons and Stocks of the Trading part of that people ; this Form of Government being in its nature the most incompatible with Trade, of all others ; nor probably had Trade ever received any encouragement in *France*, but upon a necessity ; this Monarchy being become absolute, was yet low, poor, and despicable ; beset

round

round about with *Spanish* Forces, Territories, and Allies, and poisoned with *Spanish* Pensions within, and therefore ready to become a *Spanish* Province: It was then that this Monarchy found *absoluteness* without sufficient Treasure was but a trifle: That Arbitrary power might force store of *Blood and Tears* from the people, but not of *Money*, unless they had it: It was then that the opening and growth of the *Dutch* Trade presented an expedient of drawing in greater quantities of the diffused Treasures of the World into *France* by a Machine of home-Manufactures, than the *Spaniards* could directly from their Mines; which therefore was embraced by the *dying hands* of this Monarchy, and supported and improved ever since by a Succession of understanding men: which apparently was not done by any peculiar virtue in this *Form* of Government, but by a necessary Abating of its inherent rapaciousness, which otherwise would have swallowed up every *Sols* of the stocks employed in Manufactures and other Trade, and thereby would have driven away the people; as may be seen in the *strong* Governments of *Turkey*, *Muscovy*, *Spain*, and others.

The *French* Councils discerning where the true strength of Empire lay, were not so bewitch't with the *lusciousness* of their Arbitrary power as to seek any such extreme execution of

of it; their policies have long gone another way, as may be infallibly collected from the effects, and by other lights: So long ago as *Henry* the Third's time of *France*, *Bernard de Gerrard* Lord of *Haillan*, a great Politician in his time, presented an excellent piece to that King, intitled, *The Estate and Success of the Affairs of France*, thereby representing by what courses that Kingdom had been, or might be aggrandized or weakened; amongst others, he highly recommends the *Support of the Populacy*, beginning thus "The people are by
"Justice to be preserved in liberty, Pag. 195.
"as will to Trade as to Labour, and to do every thing belonging to their degree; by these
"the Kingdom are maintained, and enriched
"in general, and particular; if they bear the
"charge of *Tailles*, so are they to be cherished,
"defended, and sustained by the Nobles, as formerly they were, and now ought to be, from
"the violences and oppressions of their Neighbours, and by the King and Justice from the
"insolence of the Nobles. For so it was, that the Nobles or Gentry, being discharged of the *Tailles*, had given up the Constitution of *Estates*; for which, they had been indulged with a kind of *despotic power*, within their own particular *Fiefs*; from whose barbarities proceeded the greatest sufferings of the people; whereof this Author is not nice or sparing to give

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give

give several instances too long to recite. I have troubled you with this citation, because this piece was by the Author Re-dedicated to *Henry* the Fourth, whom the Author tells in his Epistle, *That his Predecessor Henry the 3d. used to read it with an Appetite*, and yet the Author goes so far as to applaud the Antient Constitution of the Estates or Parliaments in France, affirming them to have been the mutual

Succour, Medicine, and Remedy both of
 Pag. 207.

the King and People in all their Calamities. If we come to the Reign of *Lewis* the 13th. under the Administration of Cardinal *Richelieu*, we may Judge how vigilant the French Councils were in his time, for the Increase of People and Trade, by two great Instances mentioned before: First in the *Toleration of Protestants*, after a Victorious Reduction of all their strengths by force of Arms: this mighty Prince and his wife Ministers overcame all *resentments* to advance and cement the glory of his Empire; so that 'tis observed by Dr. *Heylin*, "That the

Geogr. 176. "Protestants never had the Exercise of their Religion with so much freedom as they had, after their reducing of their Forts and Garrisons to this King's obedience. Secondly, by moderating of Customs and Port-duties on Merchandizes, which in the Reigns of his Predecessors

Bernard de Gerrard
 of Finances.

had

been raised and accumulated by about Twenty several *Edicts*; but in his time were in a manner taken off, as appears by what Sir *Walter Raleigh* Represented to King *James* about sixty years since, cited before; but if we would at once discover how far the *French Politicks* have inclined this way, we may observe them as they are Digested and Refined in the prodigious Book, so entituled, written, as appears, several years since, (the Authority, of which piece, though already famous, I shall give a farther account of) *French Politicks* where in the Chapter of Finances, it being first observed, "That a State is "no further Powerful than proportionably "to the Richness of its publick Treasury, and "the greatness of the yearly Income that maintains it: it is laid as a farther unalterable Maxime, "That the Fundamental Wealth of a "State consists in the multitude of Subjects; for "its Men that Till the Ground, produce Manu-factures, that manage Trade, that go to War, "that people Colonies, and in a word, that bring "in Money. To make way in France for the multiplying of Men, divers courses are there dictated to oblige both Men and Women to Marry, viz. By Freedoms and Exemptions in Case they do, and have many Children, (now established by an *Edict*) and by Penalties in case they do not;

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not;

not; whence it may be observed, what Estimate the *French* Politicks put upon *Marriage*.

Pag. 67. In the Chapter of the 3^d Estate thus, "There cannot be too great a number
"of *Husbandmen* in *France*, by reason of the
"Fertility of the Countrey; and our Corn being
"Transported into Foreign Countries, we
"ought to make great Stores of it, and have as
"much as may be in a readineß, (which I am told
"is also so ordered by an *Edict*.) *Handicrafts*:-

Pag. 68. "men and Artificers are no less useful;
"for besides, that Manufactures do keep
"men at work, and engage them, they are the
"Cause that the Silk, the Wool, the Skins, the
"Flax, the Timber, and the other Commodi-
"ties that grow in *France* are made Use of, and
"that Countrey People have the means to
"Barter these things, and put them off; espe-
"cially being wrought into Wares, not made
"in Foreign Parts, we shall grow further
"Principal Manufacturers, as we already are of
"*Hats* for Spain, and *Stuffs* for all Europe; a
"Matter of exceeding great Consequence. All
"this quickens Trade, and makes Money pass
"to and fro, which promoteth the Publick, and
"therewith at once every one's private ad-
"vantage: There must be Merchants also, for
"without their Industry, the Artificers Shops
"would be Stores never emptied, the Grana-
"ries would remain full of Corn, and the Cel-
"lars

"lars of Wines, &c. In the Chapter of *General Orders*, Usury is thought fit to be Prohibited (which is accordingly suppressed by an *Edict*.) I shall leave it to Enquiry, whether most of the rest of these Politicks relating to matters at home, are not established by other *Edicts*; if the Reader would further observe, how curious the *French* Politicks are to provide for the Increase and true Use of Populacy, I shall refer him to the Thirteenth Chapter of this Admirable Tract, directing the *Education of Children*, and when 'tis fit to Marry them; and to the Chapter of *Commerce*, or rather to the whole piece. By all I have said, it appears, that although the *French* Kings have assumed an Arbitrary Power, the *French* Politicks have not rested upon this as a *Security*, but for the Aggrandizing of that Monarchy, have found it necessary to relax and retire from the severity of this Power, and to resort to popular Principles: a Matter, which may deserve the Consideration of our New Politicians the *Hobbits*, who place all the virtue of the *French* Government in its absoluteness: In the mean time I shall add, that notwithstanding what I have said, I do not pretend that the Condition of the *French* People, though made tolerable to the *French*, is comparable to the happiness of those whose greater Freedoms and Enjoyments are secured by Fundamental Laws and

Constitutions: But this I shall observe, That whereas formerly, when this People were wretchedly poor, almost every small new Imposition begot an *Insurrection* in *France*, as the said *De Gerrard* takes notice, the *French* now pay twenty times greater Taxes, with much more Satisfaction, because they are enabled so to do; and besides can live far more plentifully than before, many of the Traders splendidly, and gain considerable Estates; To all which may be added another particular, in which the late *French* Politicks deviate from the usual *Jealous Maxims* of *Arbitrary Government*; which is a general care to instruct the *Plebeians* of all sorts, in the *Discipline of Arms*.

The late swelling Power of *Spain* after the Suppression of the *Spanish Cortes*, or Estates, derived from the *accidental* Discovery of the *Indian Mines*, and the present Power of *France* after the Suppression of the *French* Estates, from as *accidental* an Improvement of their *Trade*, have been the occasion that some out of mistake, or design, have much applauded that *Form* of Government, when it must be Confessed that the same *Indian* Treasure and Trade, would have rendred the same Nations, under the continuance of the Estates, or *England* under its present Government much stronger, and more secure, and this, by the advantages in this *Form* of Government.

Despotick,

Despotick, or *Arbitrary Monarchy*, was for many Ages as great a Stranger in this Part of the World, as *Republican Government*; As the *European Nations* by degrees cast off the *Roman Yoke*, they had before their eyes the Example of their former *Mistress*, the *Common-wealth of Rome*, which became *Vassalized* to her own *Servants*, by the unlimited Power committed to *Dictators* and *Generals*; these assuming the Empire *by force*, and *without title*, were uncontrollable by Law, and therefore did not only gratifie their own Lusts, and just Fears of being supplanted by all manner of Cruelties, but their *Masters the Soldiers* also, by the Spoils of the Provinces; nay, and of *Italy*, and *Rome* it self; and yet were they very frequently killed, deposed, and changed by the same force which set them up: To avoid the Mischiefs on each side, as the Members of this Empire resumed their National Rights, they universally cemented into a third Form of Government, much the same with *ours*: which, if we truly consider it, appears purposely, and wisely Calculated to prevent the Inconveniences of the other two, and yet to take in all that is excellent in either; For first, we have a fixt Royal Legal Sovereignty, which filling the seat of Majesty, frustrates the Ambitious hopes of others from stepping into it; Then we have the Constitution of *Parliaments*, by whose Intervention,

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tion,

tion, Liberty and Property are preserved: Thus Revolutions and Oppressions *at home* are prevented: Then for the strength of this Government *outwards* upon Foreign Nations, it must *in the Nature of it*, equal, if not exceed any other, especially absolute Monarchy; not only because its greater *freedom's* capacitate the People to Trade with more advantage, as I shall yet more particularly shew, but because the same *freedom's* beget a kind of Generosity and Bravery even in the *common sort*, when Absoluteness of Government debases their Spirits, and reconciles them to the Ignominy of being *beaten*, at least till they acquire a kind of *insolence* by long Service in War, which can hardly be called *Courage*. All Experience hath warranted this odds between Freemen and Slaves; but there is yet a farther odds, when the Quarrel is *National*, especially if espoused both by the King and Parliament; for then the *individual* Animosities of the *Whole* being engaged, the People do not merely fight for Pay, but out of *Principle*, and in defence of those greater Enjoyments they have at home, when the Vassals of Absolute Monarchy are driven on by the fear of their *Despotical Power*, which they would be glad to see subverted, and themselves delivered.

In an *Absolute Monarchy*, the Fate of the Whole depends upon the *Prudence* of the Monarch;

narch; be his Empire never so flourishing, he may by one *temerarious Edit*, or other Act, bring all into Confusion: How great must the Danger then be, when the wisest of Mortal men are often transported by Passions, and otherwise liable to Mistakes? The voluntary Councils of such a Monarch must gratifie his Power by Applauding or Complying with his Resolutions and Sentiments: But what if there come a *weak Prince*? against which there is no Security? Or suppose the King be left an *Infant*? then all goes to wrack: those Armies which were the *support* of the last Predecessor, wanting Business and Conduct, fall into *Mutines*; all are working their Ambitious ends, many contending for the *Tuition* and Publick Administration; those that have it not, supplanting those that have, whereby the Government is endangered: all which was visible during the whole Infancy of the present *French King*, though he had a *Mother*, and so faithful and wise a Minister as *Mazarine*: The high Animosities of the *French Princes* and *Nobles*, carried them into continual Distractions and Civil Wars; so that had the *English*, or any other Neighbour Nation, then been in a Condition to have supported the Male-contents, they might have Subverted the *French Empire*: which *mischiefs* are totally, or in a high measure avoided by the Constitution of *Parliaments*;

ments; without whose consent, Laws cannot be altered, or Publick Innovations made; and who by their course of *Impeachments* are a continual Check and Awe upon men of indirect and Ambitious designs: So that (according to the excellent Motto of our own Sacred Prince) it may be truly said of *such a Monarchy*, and its *Parliaments*, that they are to each other *Decus & Tutamen*: what would have become of the *French Monarchy* when their King *John* was Prisoner in *England*, had it not been for their Estates, or *Parliaments*? we have reason to believe, That were that *Crown and Nation* brought into great Exigencies and Distresses by any *Foreign Power*, they would be convened again, the Constitution being not *there absolutely dissolved*, as the said *De Gerrard* Observes; nothing can be fatal to such a Government, but a disunion between the Prince and Parliament, and therefore a great part of the transcendent Policy of this our Form of Government consists in the high *Obligations and means of a Union*: the Prince being invested with the mighty *Prerogatives* of making War and Peace, Calling, Proroguing, and Dissolving *Parliaments*, and as many others as fill Volumes, hath such a Controll on the Parliament, that it is generally to be presumed, they will ever gratifie him in whatsoever is any way consistent with that *Trust* they are under; on the other

other side, the *Parliament*, being the great and High Council, and their Content requisite to all new Taxes, whensoever the Prince on any Emergency desires their Advice, or a Supply of Money, the People must necessarily have time to represent their true grievances to him, whose Princely favour and occasions, will then equally call upon him to redress what is really amiss; in which *Commutation* he must have a far greater advantage than any *bare Tax* he receives; since as it appears, the true strength of all Monarchies and Governments depend upon well-being Abilities, and Increase of the *Populacy*; which no other Prince hath Comparably to certain a means to understand and Improve, as he that hath a Parliament: To all which may be added, that *mutual Affection* which must naturally follow these Endearments, and which must render the Prince and Nation much the stronger, never to be hoped for in any other kind of Monarchy: There are yet farther Obligations to this *Union* between the Prince and People from a just sense of those fatalities which must follow a *disunion*; we need not resort farther than to the Fable where we have an Account of a quarrel between the several Limbs of the Body Natural, whereof the Consequence was, that every part grew presently Languid and Impotent, and ready to yield it self a Feast to the *Ravens*.

If then there be the utmost Advantages on the one side, and Mischiefs on the other, this is all humane Prudence can provide; God himself hath done no more in those Divine Institutions which he hath projected for the Support, Felicity, and Security of Mankind: against which, it hath never yet been accounted any Objection that they have been violated; nor is it any against the form of our Government, that it hath fallen into some Convulsions; as long as Men are Men, there will be pravity and irregular Appetites amongst them, which in some Ages and Circumstances may be able to give greater Disturbances than in others; if in any Society of Men, unreasonable and destructive Propositions are insisted upon, or reasonable and necessary ones refused, dissensions are inevitable: This I say in general, 'tis no part of my design to Rub up old Sores, nor will it, I presume, be expected I should embroil the present Subject by vindicating Sides or Parties; let the Consequences of former dissensions be remembred.

But why should I dwell longer upon Arguments to evince the admirable Frame of our Government, when it is so unanswerably demonstrated by its former Splendid continuance for near 100 years? by the glory of our Princes, who, in Conjunction with their Parliaments, ever were, and thought themselves the greatest

greatest and happiest in *Europe*: by their stupendous Atchievements in War, and by the former ready Adherence, and large Contributions of our Parliaments, in what tended to the Advantage or Honour of *England*; we had no other form of Government in our *Edward the Third*, or *Henry the Fifth's* time, who Successively found Supplies of English *Treasure* and *Courage* enough to Conquer *France*; our *Queen Elizabeth* since, baffled the *Despotick*, and then tremendous Monarchy of *Spain*, which continuing absolute, is (notwithstanding its vast extent of Territory) one of the weakest in *Europe*: had our *Henry the Seventh* entertained the Overtures of *Columbus*, or our Councils in the Reign of *King James*, or since the wise Observations of *Sir Walter Raleigh*, or followed the example of *France*, and other Neighbouring Nations, in easing and improving our Trade, there is no doubt but the *English* Treasures and Power had far surmounted both the *Spanish* and *French* at this day: It is notorious that the Subjects of the late *Dukes of Burgundy*, under the Constitutions of *Estates*, or *Parliaments*, for many succeeding Ages, drove a mighty Trade, which gave those *Dukes* a long Superiority over the *Absolute French King*, till the *Dukedom* became annexed to *Spain*, and the *Spaniards* by their Persecution for Conscience,

See Sir William
Temple of the
Dutch, cap. 1.

science, and Tyrannous Attempts after Arbitrary Government lost both the Trade and Traders, and Seven of the Provinces, whom they forced into a Republick.

Treasures are those *Vehicles* which carry out men of *daring Spirits*, mighty *Thoughts and Abilities* into the Conquest of Forreign Countries, there is no Nation but hath a *breed* of People naturally more fit for these great Performances than any other, who growing Generals or other Commanders at Land or Sea; or Intendants in the greatest Negotiations, might, this way, prove highly Serviceable to the Publick, and find business for *Pen-men* to write their *Memoirs*, as in *France* they do: whereas, by the want of a sufficient home-Treasure, the more Courageous sort, must either be *Hackneys* or Forreigners, or degenerate into *Hectors* or *Thieves* at home, and are killed in Brawles, or are hanged for Murthers or Robberies. The more *Deliberative* generously regarding the common Exigencies, more than their own, may lie under the crowns of Fortune, and great Men, and be thought burthenfom and dangerous: there are many other Disadvantages which follow a National Poverty, as hath been noted before, which ought not to be ascribed to this or that mere Form of Government, or temper of the People.

That

That a speedy and Compleat Regulation of our *English* Trade may yet further appear highly necessary, I shall briefly observe what have been the more Modern Effects of this mighty Trade in *France*.

This may too plainly be seen by the great performances of the *French* in these last Wars, in which, the *French* King hath been able to maintain above 250000 Men in Arms, whom he hath duly paid; and yet such have been his Treasures, That he hath not been obliged to put the event of the War to the *push* of a Battel; but wearies out his Enemies with Expence from year to year, and being able to lay up mighty Stores, can keep the Fields in the *Winter*, when his Adversaries, though as valiant People as any on the Earth, are fain to lye at home: Thus watching his Advantages, he hath Taken and Burnt many strong Towns, laid many Provinces waile, breathing out Death and Devastations as he goes. This he hath done in the face of the world, in a War with near 20 Princes and States, whose lamentable Sufferings, with the Cries of their People, have long pierced our ears; whilst the *French* King grows more Vigorous and Powerful, and his Armies grow better Disciplined continually, and hath at last reduced the *Dutch* and *Spaniards* to the Terms of a dishonourable Peace, by exposing their Allies to the *French* Power; which

which hath obliged the rest to a Compliance on his own Terms; and now he gives the Law to them All, keeping mighty Armies on foot to Invade whom he pleases: But that which is yet more Prodigious is, that even during this War, he hath been able to carry on the Building of his present *great Fleet*, consisting of about 200 Ships of War, plentifully Armed with Brass Guns, and accurately built for Service; he hath also furnished himself with abundant of Naval Provisions of all sorts, at an immense Charge, every Ship having its distinct Stores and Storehouse, and therefore may be made ready on a suddain: At the same time, he hath employed multitudes of Men in cutting of Canals through Rocks and Mountains, in making, cleansing, and securing Havens upon the Coasts opposite, or near to *England* (whither by degrees, in these two or three years past, he hath drawn down the greatest part of his Navy) and at the same time hath answered mighty Annual Pensions to the *Suedes*, and *Swisses*, (whose lives he buys with his Money:) besides all the other vast private Pensions, Gratuities and Aids he bestows in the Courts and Countreys of other Princes, (by which, perhaps he hath made as great Advantages as by his Arms :) and yet 'tis probable, that in all this he hath not exceeded the bounds of his ordinary Revenue.

That

That which most threatens the Trade of *England*, is his *Naval Force*, which none of his Predecessors ever had, and were checked if they pretended to it; *Queen Elizabeth* forbade *Henry the 4th.* of *France* (on a suddain called the Great) Building great Ships, else she would fire them in his Harbours: Since which the *French* have desisted, till about the year 1664. as may appear by that excellent Treatise, intituled, *A free Conference*, Printed in 1667. by the special Appointment of the truly Honourable the Lord *Arlington*, where Page 49. we find these words, "Not above three years ago, *France* was hardly able to set out 20 Ships; (that is to say, Men of War) now they have 60 large Vessels ready furnished, and well Armed, and do apply their Industry in every part to Augment the number, &c. I shall forbear repeating some sharp Reflections which next follow.

And that the *French King* might want no *Seamen* of his own, and might at least share in the Gain of *Navigation*, he hath for several years past endeavoured by all Imaginable Encouragements to establish a mighty Navigation in *France*; so that for one Trading *French* Ship there was 20 or 30 years since, there are now 40: For this purpose he hath Propagated a Sea-Fishery, to a very great degree, which Improves daily to the prejudice of our remain-
S ing

ing *English* Fishery; and besides, hath yearly educated Supernumerary Seamen on Board the *French* Trading Ships, at his own Charge; so that 'tis to be feared he will stand in little need of Forreign Seamen for his Ships of War; or if he do, the *Dutch* have Store, which perhaps he may have for his Money, as 'tis probable he may the Fleets of *Swedeland*, *Portugal*, and *Algiers*; these his Allies of *Algiers*, (as 'tis said, by the assistance of his Money upon a

Note: most of that Fleet which the *Algierines* had (which was but small) was destroyed by the *English* at *Cape Spartell*, and *Bu-ghia*, about eight years since; They have since built 40 Men of War, from 20 to 50 Guns and upwards, besides Brigantines, Gallies, &c.

a general Redemption of *French* Slaves) are on a sudden gotten from 10 to above 40 Men of War; and as soon as our Applications in *France* had prevailed with the *French* to desist from taking our Ships, these *Algiers* Pyrats fell upon us, and have continually pick't up our Merchantmen, and Vassalized our Seamen and other People ever since; they now do it before our faces, in our Channel, finding Harbour in the *French* opposite parts, which makes a great Addition to our late Losses; and, which is yet worse, hath so terrified our Seamen and Merchants, that many already think it necessary to trade in *Dutch* and *French* Bottoms, a Consequence which 'tis probable might be foreseen by some of our Neighbors, who with we had neither Ships nor Seamen.

At

At the same time our Gazetts weekly tell us of great Squadrons of *French* Men of War, proudly ranging in all Quarters of the World; in the *Mediterranean*, in the *East* and *West Indies*, and in our own Seas, viewing the Strengths and Weaknesses, and Sounding and Commanding the Harbours of other Nations.

We find it said in the *Free Conference*, "That *France* is our Hereditary Enemy, and hath so often tryed what we are able to do against the enlarging of their Empire, who have graven it deep on their hearts, the injury of the Title, which to their shame *England* bears in all Publick Treaties, and her Trophies in reference to that Crown; This very *France* hath no greater desire than to take the Dominion of the Sea from us, &c.

If we look into the before-mentioned *French* Politicks, they assure us of the same; of which piece, because I so often cite it; I shall first give the Reader some present Account; and farther, when I have done with it: "The *English* Preface tells us, the Author was a Person bred up under Monsieur *Colebert*, and to shew his Abilities, writ this Treatise, and in Manuscript presented it to the *French* King, which was favourably received; but afterwards Vanity prompting him to publish it in Print, the King look't upon him as one
S 2 "that

"that had *discovered his Secrets*, and turning
 "his favour into frowns, caused him to be Im-
 "prisoned in the *Bastile*, where he continued
 "a long time, and afterwards was Banished, &c.
 'tis like to some place where he should not be
 able to aver the same, or disclose more Secrets;
 what opportunities he might have of learning
 Secrets by his Attendance on Monsieur *Cole-
 bert*, whether he might over-hear the Debates
 and Results of the *French Councils*, or whe-
 ther Casually, or by order he had a View of
 the Papers, and was but the servile Compiler,
 or bare Porter of this Scheme, or Manual of
 Policies, I leave to be examined; a stupen-
 dious piece it is, which being written seven or
 eight years since, and prefiging so great a
 part of what hath followed, gives so confi-
 dable an Authority to it self, that its Credit
 need not depend upon that of the Author of
 the *Growth of Popery*; who, as 'tis hinted in the
English Preface, calls it the Measures of the
French King's Designs.

These Politicks having first delineated the
 Comprehensive and steady Founda-
 tions of the *French Monarchy*, as
 built upon Trade, Treasure, and Populacy at
 home, they then proceed to look abroad, and
 first they project the Ingrossing of all Com-
 merce at Sea, and this at a lump, by employ-
 ing part of this Treasure in Building a Fleet of
 Men

Men of War able to Command it, in which
 they say, "All things Conspire to give the
 "*French* hopes of Success; the work how-
 "ever is such as must be *leisurely* carried
 "on, and perfected by little and little, so great
 "a Design continually *Alarming Europe, Asia,*
 "*Africa*, and *America*, Friends and Foes; a
 "Precipitation of it would be its Ruine, Six
 "or Ten years time might be Allotted for it:
 "The King may keep 100 Gallies, and 100
 "Ships in the Mediterranean, and 200 Sail
 "upon the *Ocean*, the more Vessels he shall
 "have, the more enabled he will be to reco-
 "ver the Expence made about them: The Sea
 "will yield Maintenance for the Sea, either
 "by Commerce or War; There is Timber in
 "*France*, there is Cordage, there are Sails,
 "there is Iron and Bras, &c. When things
 "have taken their Course, Seamen will be had
 "in time, and the profit that will accrew will
 "afford Store, and bring them in from all Parts
 "of the World.

"The Fleets with the King might Pag. 163.
 "keep upon the *Ocean*, would make him Ma-
 "ster of all the Powers and Trade of the North;
 "yea, though the *Hollander* and *English* should
 "Unite against *France*, they could not avoid
 "their Ruine in the end; for how could the
 "one or the other make good their Commerce
 "(which is all they have to traff to) if they
 S 3 "were

"were forced to keep great Armadoes to continue it? The Point of *Britain* is the *Gate* to enter into, and go out of the *Channel*: Fifty Ships of War at *Brest*, would keep this *Gate* fast shut, and they would not open it but by the Kings Command.---Thus there would need no War almost to be made for all these things, nor His Majesty's Forces hazarded: It will be sufficient to give his Orders to Forreigners; nor will it be difficult to cut them out work in their own Countries, and by this means stay their Arms at home, and make them spend their strengths there; something of this in its place hereafter.

"His Majesty's Power being thus strongly settled in each Sea, it will be easie to secure Commerce in *France*, and even draw the Merchants thither from all parts; I say secure Commerce; for till this be done, it will ever be uncertain and dangerous.

It may not be improper to observe, with some reference to what hath been debated in the preceding Sections, what further Expedients the *French* Politicks dictate in this Chapter, for the securing of Commerce: Amongst others we there find this Caution; "It must be studiously prevented that Commerce introduce not into a *State-Superfluity, Excess, and Luxury*, which are often followed with Ambition, Avarice, and a dangerous

Pag. 169.

"gerous Corruption of Manners. : It is added, That it hath been a question offered to debate, whether Traffick in *France* should be managed by Subjects or Forreigners, to make a short decision; 'tis evident that Forreigners must be allowed to gain our Merchandizes, if we would have them take them off, if we carry them into their Ports, we shall make less Sales; yet, That our Merchants may share in the profit, they may enter into Partnership with them, or be their Commisfioners here, or Freight them themselves, provided they sell at somewhat cheaper Rates, and so be content with moderate Gain. Which passages I have cited to shew, That 'tis no part of their Politicks to increase Luxuries or Excess; nor to inclose their home and Forreign Market to their own Navigation or Merchants.

See Sir William Temple of the Dutch, Pag. cited before, Sect. 12.

I have been thus long tracing the *French* Politicks, and our own unfortunate Methods in the matter of Trade, and this out of a hope to occasion the Restitution and Increase of ours; but have gone so far in the pursuit, that on a sudden I have step't into a Scene of Horrors, by a necessary and inevitable Apprehension of the Dangers we are in, from the present *French* Powers; it is impossible for any man to close up the eye of his Reason, when he sees a Ghostly

S 4

Troop

Troop of Ruins making their regular Approaches against his Prince and his Countrey, and therein threatening many Millions of poor Innocents, and of these some Millions, who hardly *knew their right hands from their left*, with Butcheries and Violations of all kinds; in such a Case, Silence would be the greatest and foulest of Barbarities, and no better than an Apostacy from the sacred Duties of *Allegiance and Self-Preservation*.

Shall we flatter our selves with an opinion that the *French* have no inclination to turn their mighty Treasures, Land and Sea-Forces upon us? How poor, weak, uncertain and dishonourable is such a Security? Are we so tenacious of every little pretence of Right at home, and so busie to get a Penny, and yet shall be content to enjoy our Lives and Estates by no better a Tenure than the discretion of the *French*? whose Councils are dark and inscrutable, and who by their late

See *The Buckler of State and Justice*, Printed in (67) by the special Appointment of the Honorable the Lord Arlington.

Invasion of *Flanders*, contrary to former Leagues and Sanctions, and the then Assurances of the *French* Ministers, have at least demonstrated, that they most intend what they least profess; Is *England* become so despicable a Spot, as not to be worth the Acquest? Is it not equal to *Flanders*, or the *Island of Sicily*?

Is

Is it not evident that the present *French* King aims at the Trade of the World, and particularly of the North? doth he not want Ports? will it not be more grateful to him to engross the Woollen Manufacture by securing the *English* Wool, than to stand to our Courtessie? Hath not *England* most other valuable *Materials*, by which he might yet mightily enlarge the Trade of *France*? Can he hope to proceed in his Conquests on the Continent, whilst he leaves so dangerous an Enemy at his *Rere*? Doth he not know the *Spirit* of our People? Are our *Talbots*, and *Bedfords* forgotten? Did he not see us raise a considerable Army the other day to check his Progress? Is he not exasperated by our late Prohibition of *French* Goods, which touches him in the most tender Concern of his Trade? Doth he not think himself affronted in the face of the World? What can be so grateful to a Prince Ambitious of Glory, and to the *French* Nation in general, as to render those *English*, their *Hewers of Wood*, and *Drawers of Water*, who have so often Triumphed in *France*? Will they not endeavour to obliterate that *Title* *England* bears in her publick Treaties? Will not such an Acquist ennoble the name of the present *French* King, above all those of his Ancestors? What a mighty and useful Purchase will he have in a *Seminary of able Men and Horses*, whose value he hath reason to understand, and which he may then draw

draw out into his Wars at his pleasure, what spacious Possessions and Commanderies would *England* and its *Dominions* afford to his *French* Officers, to whom it may be no little Temptation to have the deflowring and violating of our most beautiful Women, being such as the whole Earth cannot Parallel: A thousand other particulars might be accumulated, of which it is not the least that here would be a vast accession of Preferments for the numerous *French Popish Clergy*, and then what would become of ours? And shall we think the *French* Councils are insensible of these Advantages? Have they who have been nicely winnowing all the rest of their Neighbouring Countreys, forgotten ours? if we resort again to the *French Politicks*, we shall have no reason to think so; we see before what they design upon our Commerce, from thence they proceed to project Conquests at Land; The *French Romances* spake us nothing but *Love and Honour*, and in truth make a very pleasing divertisement; but their Politicks denounce *Subjugation and Vassallage*: if we follow them from Countrey to Countrey, what they say of ours will appear more considerable; thus they begin: "It were
 Pag. 153. "to be wisht that the King did add to
 "his Kingdom all the Low Countreies to
 "the Rhine,—It would make him Master of the
 "Northern Seas, &c. (what Progress the French
 King

King hath made towards this Conquest, and why he found himself obliged to desist for the present, need not be repealed, no doubt but the French bear it in Memory) "Secondly, "it were convenient the King had
 "Strasburgh to keep all Germany in
 "quiet, &c. (Our Gazetts may inform us what
 Advances he hath made towards the reducing of this great strength, and he is now storing all his adjacent Magazines). "In the third place he had need to have the French Comte to lay a restraint upon the *Swisses*, &c. (This he hath since gotten). "In the fourth place, "Milan is necessary in respect of *Italy*, &c. (Of this we have yet heard no more than that he hath been bargaining for a passage by *Casall*). "In the fifth place, *Genoa*;—*Genoa* would make "the King Master of the *Mediterranean Sea*, &c. (This he hath so far proceeded in, that he hath obliged the *Genoveses* to harbour his Ships, and to almost what other Conditions he pleases. In the fifth Chapter, dictating how *France* should act with Foreign
 Princes after a most exquisite Scrutiny into the ill adjusted Councils, and Luxu-
 ries of the *Spanish* Grandees, 'tis said, "Their Forces are not to be feared, "Scicily might easily make an Insurre-
 "ction, &c. (We have seen what followed). *Portugal* is a perpetual Instru-

ment

"ment for the weakening Spain, &c. (So it hath remained) "The *Venetians* and People of *Italy* are wise; to reduce them to our Intentions, "we must work by down-right force, &c. The "Pope will ever Consider *France*, because of the "County of *Avignon*: The *Hollanders* will keep themselves to our Alliance as much as possibly they may,--They are rich. *It were expedient the King did interpose in their Affairs, and that some divisions be sown amongst them:* (we see what hath ensued:) "The *Swisses* are Mercenaries, who will always serve the King for his Money: (so they have done ever since) The King of *Denmark* is a Prince whose State is but small, &c. "Sweden will never break off from the Interests of *France*, we ought to consider them as Instruments which for our Money we may make Use of to divert the *English* or *Holland* Forces, when His Majesty makes any Enterprize which pleaseth them not, &c. (Success hath verified this, and may further:) The Friendship of the Turk is good for *France*, to be made Use of on occasion against the *Emperor*: (our Gazetts have informed us what Essays there have been; and at last the Turk was brought upon *Muscovy*, whereby the *Swedish* Army in *Livonia* was let loose upon the Confederates.

Of

Of All others, these Politicks speak most confidently of the Conquest of the *English*; they observe, that "We have no Friends,--and "are positive, "that a War of *France* "for three or four years, would ruine us: (which 'tis evident must be said out of a sense they have of their odds in National Treasure; for by the Import of the words and Context, they cannot be spoken on supposition the *French* should attacke us unawares, (which God prevent:) Hereupon it follows "so it seems reasonable that we should make no Peace with them, viz. the *English*; but on Conditions of the greatest Advantage to us, "unless the King think fit to defer the Execution of this Project for another time: To make sure and quick work, 'Tis farther thought fit that ways should be found to disable our Government by great Expences, and by Disunions and Convulsions; from which 'tis manifest, the *French* are well aware in what the virtue of our Government consists, and therefore know how to strike at the root: There are divers indirect Expedients proposed, which I shall forbear, being somewhat Prolix, and mixt with Contemptuous and Reflective Expressions: It is enough to observe here from whence these *French* Politicks hope for our *English* Harvest, and that this is the work at home before intended to be cut out for us.

See before
Pag.

This

This great Prince hath thought fit hitherto to defer a formal War upon us, at least, under that Denomination; but whether he hath deferred the *Project* as these Politicks call it, may depend upon a Consideration of what he hath been visibly doing ever since; he hath been since building his Fleet, amassing his Naval Stores, Educating and Providing Seamen and Harbours, wasting and disabling those Neighbouring Empires and States, who being jealous of his Power, might otherwise have interposed in his Carriere, getting those great Passes and Strengths into his hands, by which they might have entred his Countrey, he hath been disciplining a victorious and mighty Army, and exhausting us by his Trade, with a great Addition of Iols by his Capers; (the *French* are very curious at Cooking their Morsels before they eat them) and at last hath, as it were, forced a general Peace, even whilst he was Victorious, by which he is left at entire Liberty: of which Peace, whilst it was under Negotiation, and drawing to a Conclusion, a wife

The present Lord Chancellor in his Speech to both Houses of Parliament, on the 23d of May, 1678.

and noble Lord of our time, gave this his sence to both our Houses of Parliament: "The influence such a Peace may have upon our affairs, is fitter for Meditation than discourse, only this is evident, that by the Preparations we have made

"made for War, (*viz.* in the raising of our late Army, &c.) and by the *Prohibition* we have made of Trade, we have given no small Provocations to so mighty a King, who may be at leisure enough to resent them if he please; and therefore it will Import us so to streng- then our selves both at home and abroad, that it may not be found a cheap and easie thing to put an Affront upon us. I need not inform any *English* Reader, what fatal Apprehensions the same Parliament had of the Consequences of such a Peace; they are in ordinary Memory; can we think this Fleet of Men of War is built to be employed in the Fishery, or to lye and rot in their Harbours? Can this Army profitably, or safely be supported Idle? Will he suffer them to be tainted with Luxury? Will he hazard Animosities or Factions amongst the numerous *French* Nobles (by whom this Army is Officer'd) the Mutinies of the Soldiers, or Insurrections of his own People? Will he not rather send these Armed Heards to graze in our sweet Meadows, and to gather him fresh Laurels out of our *English* Gardens?

The Gazett for Monday Decemb. 29. gives us this Advertisment. *Hamburgh, Dec. 22.* The *French* have hired all the Vessels in this River, and the *Weser*, which used to go to *France*, and return with Wines, on which they mean to Transport great Quantities of *Oats*, and other Corn (which they are therefore buying up in these Parts) to *Calais*, *Dunkirk*, and other Places on that Coast.

It may reasonably add to our Fear, that

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we see the *French* King hath lately made so strict Alliances with *Spain*, and with *Bavaria*, by which he is farther secured from any Inroads from those Parts; and that we also find him so vigilant to prevent our Leaguings with the *Dutch*, and to come to some closer Conjunction with them himself; in which his Ministers use the utmost Arts, mixt with a sort of Menaces; I cannot but resort again to the *French* Politicks, where in the close of those Methods by which the *French* King may obtain an easie and intire Conquest of *England*, we find it farther dictated thus, "On the other

Pag. 192.

"hand, our League with the *Hollanders* should be renewed, and they put into a belief, that we should give them all the Trade still, because they have the knowledge of it, and are proper for it; whereas (as 'tis to be suggested) the *French* have no Inclination that way, and Nature cannot be forced; they must be told that now they are come to the happy time for advancing their Affairs, and ruining their Competitors in the Sovereignty of the Northern Seas: we see these Politicks go through stich in the business. And that upon the Whole they were very unfit to be Printed; no man who had so much Wit as to be the real Author, could have so little as to publish them; and the rather, because of Another Secret amongst the rest very improper to be divulged

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As for the Proofs against this Prisoner, they were as home and positive as against the rest.

1. Dr. Oates declares how he came acquainted with him, by bringing him Letters from his Sons from a Seminary in *Spain*; and then Swears, That *Langborn* did hold Correspondence with *Le Chefe* and others, and that the Witness carried several Letters to persons beyond the Seas; in one of which he saw under his own hand, words to this purpose, *That now they had a fair opportunity to begin, or give the blow*; with other expressions plain enough concerning the Plot: and these he saw signed *Richard Langborn*, and that the Prisoner himself delivered them to him. *See the Tryal, p. 9.*

2. That he had order from the Provincial to give Mr. *Langborn* an Account of the Resolve of the Jesuits Consult for Killing the King, and that he did acquaint him therewith; and that the said *Langborn* thereupon lift up his Hands and Eyes, and prayed to God to give it a good success. P. 10.

3. That he saw at his Chamber certain Commissions, which they call Patents; and that on his desire he permitted the Witness to peruse several of them; and that there was one Commission to the Lord *Arundel* of *Wardour*, and another to the Lord *Powis*, for the one to be Lord Chancellor, and the other Lord Treasurer of *England*; and one to Mr. *Langborn* himself, to be Advocate of the Army; and that they were signed *Johannes Paulus d'Olive*, by Vertue of a Brief from the Pope: and Mr. *Langborn* also told him, that he had sent one of these Com-

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Commissions by his Son, to be delivered to the Lord Arundel of Wardour's Son.

4. That Mr. Langborn, being employed P. 13. as Solicitor for several of the Fathers of the Society, did prevail with the Benedictine Monks to raise six thousand pounds for carrying on the Cause; and did say in the hearing of the witness, That he would do his utmost for procuring the said Money.

5. That Mr. Langborn was disgusted that Sir G. Wakeman was not content with ten thousand pound to poison the King, and call'd him narrow-spirited, narrow-soul'd Physician: for being a publick concern, and to carry on the Cause, it was no matter if he did it for nothing.

6. An Instrument was produced in Court, signed by Paulus d'Oliva, found in Mr. Langborn's Chamber, long after Mr. Oates had given in his Testimony. Now Mr. Oates swore, that the before-mentioned Commissions were signed by the same hand, and had the same mark; but they were all conveyed away, and this being only concerning an Ecclesiastick business, wherein they thought there was no danger, was left. However, this much confirmed Mr. Oates's Evidence, by shewing that Mr. Langborn did use to receive Patents from, and had Commerce with the Superior of the Jesuits at Rome.

In the next place comes Mr. Bedloe, and P. 19. he swears that he went with Mr. Coleman to Mr. Langborn's Chamber, and there Mr. Coleman gave him his Letters to le Chefe, and the Popes Nuncio, and others, open, to read and Register in

a Book by him kept for that purpose, and that he saw him read these Letters, which were concerning these designs in hand; and that he Registered them in a Book in his Closet; whilst he and Mr. Coleman walkt in the outer room; and that afterwards Coleman sealed up these Letters, and delivered them to the Witness, who carried them to le Chefe; and that some of the expressions in those Letters were, That all things were now in readiness, and they only wanted Money: That the Catholics were now in safety; that Places and Offices, had been disposed to them, and that all the Garrisons either were, or suddenly would be in their hands; and that now they had a fair opportunity, having a King so easie to believe what was dictated to him by their Party; and that if they missed this advantage, they might despair of ever introducing Popery into England. These were the very Expressions of some of them.

2. That he brought other Letters from Harcourt to Langborn to be Registered, and Langborn writ back, that he had received and would Register them; of which Letters one was from the Rector of the Irish Colledge at Salamanca, which specified, That the Lord Bellasis and the rest concerned, should be in readiness, for that they had sent some Irish cashier'd Souldiers, with many other Lay-Brothers, under the notion of Pilgrims for St. Jago, who were to take shipping at the Groin, and to land at Milford-Haven in Wales, and there to meet and join with the Lord Powis.

The only defence Mr. Langborn could make, was like that of the rest of his Party, by stout
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denials, and endeavouring to invalidate the credit of the Witnesses, by intrapping or confronting them in point of time or place.

1. He would make Doctor *Oates* an Approver, as having been pardoned for the same Crime; and allcaged, that the Witnesses had received *Rewards* and gratifications for Swearing against them. But to this the Court answered, That it could not be supposed the King would Bribe his Witnesses; and unless he could prove any reward to be given by Contract, or *Sitboration*, it was no Objection, for that allowance of sustenance was usually given of old to Approvers, &c.

2. He mulstered up again their buffed P. 33. Evidence from St. *Omers*, of whom one being askt how he came to take notice of Mr. *Oates* being at St. *Omers* all *April* and *May*, and not in *June* and *July* as well, plainly answered, (being not well instructed, or more simple than the rest)---It was---Because the *Question* he came for did not fall upon that time: Which gives more light to the suspicion, that they came with their Lessons in their Mouths, to save these mens Lives, and their Churches sinking Credit; not to speak truth, but only right or wrong confront the Kings Evidence: but in vain, for Dr. *Oates* sufficiently asserted his Testimony by seven Witnesses, who now again proved, as they had done, the day before, his being in *London* at the time controverted.

3. Then Mr. *Langhorn* produced the P. 46. Woman at the *White-horse* Tavern, where Mr. *Oates* had said the Consult was held; and the boldly averred, that there was never a Room in

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her House would hold above a dozen people, and therefore there could not meet 50, or 15 or 20 persons at a time. This was an Objection Doctor *Oates* could not fore-see, not thinking any body would have had the confidence to allcage its and so was not provided with any Witnesses to confute it: but as Providence ordered it no less than three several strangers stood up in Court, that knew the House well, and being sworn, Attested, The first, that he had known sixteen to dine often in one Room of that House; the second, that he knew two Rooms, one backwards and the other forward, where Thirty might Dine at a time; and the third, that at a Wedding he knew of above Twenty that Dined together in one Room next the street. Nay farther, there was a Gentleman of good Quality in Court, who declared, there have been Fifty in a Room there; so that this Evidence, by such a peremptory fallhood, did but add to the suspicion already too apparent on the rest of his Witnesses.

The matter being thus plain, the Jury did not find any difficulty that might require a tedious Consultation, and therefore returning after a short retirement, into Court, pronounced the prisoner Guilty; and then *Whitebread*, and the other Four Convicted the day before, being brought to him to the Bar, Mr. Recorder proceeded to pass Sentence of Death upon them all Six. But Mr. *Langhorn*, either in consideration of the affairs of others in relation to his Practice, which it might be convenient to adjust; or rather in hopes he might have been wrought upon

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to make some ingenuous Confession, was Reprieved for a Month, and then Executed on Munday the Fourteenth of *June*, persisting in the most solemn and studied expressions of his Innocence; which that they might be home and full, and consequently the more taking with the people, he had written down in a paper, whether of his own penning, or prescribed unto him by some Priest, is uncertain; and this he delivered to the Sheriff, referring himself thereunto, as the last Expressions of his mind; and desiring it might be seen.

CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

The Occasion and manner of Mr. Robert Jennison's first Discovery; and the Apprehension of one Caryl, alias Blunden, and his Letter beyond the Seas concerning the Execution of Whitebread, &c.

WE have before related how Mr. *Ireland* insisted that he was in *Staffordshire*, when Dr. *Oates*, Mr. *Bedloe*, and one *Sarah Pain*, attest upon their Oaths that they saw him in *London*. And this he not only alledged at his Tryal, and brought Witnesses to prove it, but made solemn Affeuerations at his death, That he never was in *London* from the 5th of *August* to the 14th of *September*. And knowing that such a failure in circumstance of time and place, if they could get it believ'd, would much deprectate the Evidence, they not content with what had pass'd, revive it again at *Whitebread's* Tryal, as you have heard, offering fresh people to confirm it: And though the contrary was sufficiently attested by three Witnesses on Oath, enough to convince an impartial Jury, or any body else that considers the nature of a *Papists* Religion, and how far he may lawfully, nay is bound to stretch his private Conscience, when it may be for the publick Emolument of their Church; yet it pleas'd

Providence, as well for the vindication and further illustration of *Truth*, as to shame these false dissemblers, and expose their fallacious dealings, soon after to make a further *discovery*, and detect their Lyes in this behalf, by one that had been no small Zealot of their Party.

For presently after that Tryal, *Charles Cherwind* Esq; upon some discourse concerning the same, was accidentally inform'd, That one Mr. *Robert Jennison* of *Grays-Inne*, a person of good Quality, and formerly a strict *Romanist*, had affirm'd, That he was with the said *Ireland* about the middle of *August* in *Russel-street* in *Covent-garden*: whereupon Mr. *Cherwind* resolv'd to enquire further after it, being thereunto encouraged by the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, to whom he had communicated what he had heard. Then tracing the business, he went to *Robert Bowes* Esq; who own'd, that Mr. *Jennison* had signified so much to him formerly in a Letter from *Reading*, dated the 19th of *December*. Hereupon several of these Gentlemen repaired to Mr. *Jennison*, who after some unwilling Evasions, ingenuously owned the same, and testified it upon Oath before *Edmund Warenc* Esq; one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of *Middlesex*, viz. That coming up from *Windsor* on the 19th of *August*, he went to visit the said *William Ireland* (with whom for some time he had been well acquainted, as being related unto him) and found him at his Lodging in *Russel-street*, who told him he was then newly arrived by Post from *Wolverhampton* in *Staffordshire*; and in discourse enquired how his Majesty and the Court were diverted: To which

Mr.

Mr. *Jennison* replied, That he heard his Majesty took much delight in *Hawking and Fishing*, but chiefly in the latter; which his Majesty follow'd early in the mornings, accompanied onely with two or three Lords: Whereupon *Ireland* replied, He wondred his Majesty should be so thin guarded, he were easily taken off or removed; or words to that effect. At which Mr. *Jennison* saying *God forbid*, *Ireland* began to qualifie it, saying, *I do not say it is lawful*; and some such Expressions, which made him take little notice of it at that time; but afterwards hearing of the Plot, and that the King was to have been kill'd at *Windsor*, he began to reflect upon these former words more seriously, and related them to his Father and one Mr. *Smith* his Fathers Confessor, being then at *Walthworth* his Fathers Manlion-house in the Bishoprick of *Durham*.

This and some other Depositions confirming the same, with the true Copy of the said Letter, have since been published in print, and Mr. *Jennison* publickly attested the same at *Wakeman's* Tryal; the horror and detestation of this hellish Plot carried on by the *Romanists*, having induced him to quit their Communion.

Three days after the Execution of *Whitebread* and the other four Jesuits, viz. 23 June, was Apprehended by Captain *Rieb*, one of His Majesties Justices of Peace for *Stury*, one *Caryl*, alias *Blunden*, supposed to be a Popish Priest, at *Lamberb-Marsh*, at the House of one Mr. *Woodinbrook*, formerly an Haberdasher of Small Wares in the Burrough of *Southwark*; in whose Chamber was found the following Letter, prepared to give an Account

count thereof to their Correspondents beyond the Seas; wherein 'tis observable, what *liberty* they take to scandalize the proceedings of Justice, and invent so many palpable notorious Lies; as that of the Reprieve being brought to the Gallows, &c. to keep up their Reputation with their Party. The words of the Letter were as follow, one-ly in the Margent we have added some necessary Observations.

IHS. MR. 23 June, 1679.

My Dr. C.

ON the Thirteenth of June, being Friday, Mr. Whitebread, Mr. Harcourt, Mr. Turner, Fenwick and Gaven of the Society, and Mr. Corker, were brought to the Bar in the Old-Bailey: Mr. Corker moved the Court for a longer time, being onely warned the night before, whereas the other Prisoners had eight days warning to prepare themselves; whereupon he was re-manded to prison till the next day: Then was the Indictment read against the Five above-named Jesuits, for conspiring the Kings Death, Subversion of Government, and Protestant Religion. Then Mr. Oates swore that on the Twenty fourth of April, there was a Consult held in London,

don, where the Kings Death was Conspired; and that he carried this Resolve from one to the other, for their subscribing; and swore particular Circumstances against each. To Corroborate this Testimony, other Witnesses, Bedloe, Prance, Dugdale, and Chetwine, came in with (1) Over-
tures to the matter sworn by Oates. Then did the Prisoners (after a most solemn and (2) Religious Protestation of their Innocence and ignorance of any Conspiracy against His Majesty) desire that their Witnesses might be heard, which could demonstrate that Mr. Oates was actually at St. Omers in all April and May, and most of June, when he swears he was in London at the Consult. To prove this, about twenty Witnesses were produced, who did shew evidently, by several remarkable passages, how Oates was at St. Omers all the whole time. But the Judge Scrogges asked each Witness as he did appear, of what Religion he was of; and upon answer that he was a Catholick, the whole Court gave a shout of laughter. Then the Judge would say to them, (3) Well, what have you
then

(1) A pretty way of expressing plain positive Evidence of several Overt Acts of Treason.

(2) It might be solemly, but could not be counted Religious by any but you, whose Religion consists in Lies and Blaphemous Hypocrisy.

(3) All absolutely false, though it might have been the most proper way of Examining such bold young Villains; for 'twas apparent they did not speak their knowledge, but their Masters dictates.

then been taught to say? and by many scoffing Questions (which moved the Court to frequent laughter) he did endeavour to take off the Credibility of their Witnesses. Then the Butler, Taylor, and Gardiner of St. Omers offered to swear that they saw Mr. Oates all that time at St. Omers, when he swore he was in London. After this, the Prisoners at the Bar produced Sixteen Witnesses more, that proved

(4) Another impudent Lie; and sure the Jesuits themselves and the Staffordshire Vouchers, if they have any shame left, will now blush at the story.

(5) Not the least pretence for this old huffed Scandal.

(6) O brave Orator! sure this Recommendation of such brave service done the Church, will hasten Gavens Canonization, at least one score or two of years.

a Countenance wholly unconcerned,

ed, and in a voice very audible, and largely and pertinently expressed. The Judge was incensed at this Speech, in which he often interrupted him: but Gaven still urged, My Lord, I plead now for my Life, and for that which is dearer to me than life, (7) the honour of my Religion, and therefore I beseech you have a little patience with me! After this Plea of Mr. Gaven's, the Judge made his Harangue to the Jury, telling them, that what the Prisoners had brought, was only the bare assertions of Boys, who were taught it as a point of their Religion, to lye for the honour of their Religion; whereas Mr. Oates, Bedloe, and others, were upon their Oaths; and if Oaths were not to be taken, no Courts could subsist.

Then Mr. Oates brought forth four (8) Witnesses which he had kept in reserve; an old Parson in his Canonical Gown, an old Dominican Priest (9) Proh Pudor & Dolor! and two old women that swore they saw Mr. Oates in the beginning of May 1678. At this the whole Court gave a shout of (10) laughter and hollow, that for almost a quarter

(7) Ay, and Soul to boot.

(8) These four were no less than seven.

(9) Is he so? The honestest man he, to speak the truth and shame the Devil and the Jesuits.-----But Proh dolor! Alas! how this grieves you, that any one of your Religion should speak Truth when it makes against you.

(10) And who could forbear, to hear how undeniably your Novices were proved to be like their Masters, most egregious LIARS? Nor yet did the Court laugh, but the crowd of people, whom the Court took order to

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the Cryers could not still them :
Never was Bear-baiting more
rude and boisterous than this
Tryal. Upon this the Judge
dismiss'd the Jury, to consider and
bring in their Verdict ; who (af-
ter half an hours absence) brought
in the Five Prisoners at the Bar
all guilty of High-Treason.
Thereupon the whole Court clapt

(11) Better so, than that you clap your hands at the murder of the King, as some of your Tribe did at that of your Enemy, his blessed Father.

(12) Bravely said ! Who would confess now ? To be thus Apostolised, would make one venture Purgatory.

(13) Dear Sir, tell us his name ; he was a Wit undoubtedly, unless it were your self. A Jury of Turks have done strange things, and may acquit any body ; but these were a Jury of honest Christians, and therefore they found them guilty.

(14) 'Tis pity you had not been caught giving the Knaves that Absolution.

Next

Next day Mr. Langhorne a Lawyer, Sir George Wakeman, Mr. Corker, Mr. March, Mr. Rumbly, the three last Beneficiaries, were brought to the Bar ; where the Indictment being read against them for conspiring the Kings death, &c. they pleaded all Not guilty. Then was Langhorne first tryed, whose Tryal held so long, that they had not time to try the other four ; and the Commission by which they sat expiring that day, the Judge adjourned the Tryal of the other four till the 14th of July, and then the Judge commanded the Keeper to bring the five Jesuits ; whom with Langhorne (15) were sentenced to be hang'd, drawn, and quartered. Mr. Corker and Mr. March are close Prisoners, and have been so this eight months, with whom I have been ; God has fitted, and is still fitting them as Sacrifices for himself : They are very well disposed and resigned to Gods holy will. Mr. Rumbly hath the liberty of the Prison, with whom is Mr. Heskett ; all cheerful, and expect the good hour.

On Thursday, the day before the five Jesuits were executed, my

(13) Poor Langhorne ! not one word of praise for thee ! methoughts thou look'dst as Apostolically as the best of them : but this 'tis to be a Lay-man, and confess Jesuits Lands.

my Lord Shaftsbury was with Turner and Gaven, promising them the Kings Pardon, if they would acknowledge the Conspiracy. Mr. Gaven answered, He would not murter his Soul, to save his Body; for he must acknowledge what he knew not, and what he did believe was not. On Friday the 20th of June, Mr. Whitebread on one Sled with Mr. Harcourt, Mr. Turner and Mr. Gaven upon another Sled, and Mr. Fenwick in a Sled by himself, were drawn from Newgate to Tyburn. Mr. Langhorne is for a time reprieved, and promised Pardon, if he will, (as 'tis reported) discover the Estates of the Jesuits: he was their Lawyer. 'Tis certain my Lord Shaftsbury has been often with him. In the way they comported themselves seriously and chearfully; Mr. Gaven had smug'd himself up as if he had been going to a Wedding. When they arrived at Tyburn, they each made a Speech: 1. Affeering their ignorance of any Plot against his Majesty. 2. Pardoning their Accusers. 3. And heartily praying for them. Mr. Gaven in his Speech made an

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Both in *France* and *Holland* are great *Excises* on most, or all, ordinary Meats and Drinks, in *England* on part of our Drink only, viz. That in Alehouses, and Publick Brewings, (I hope there never will be any such as shall burthen Trade.)

Our great *Wasts*, and *void Lands*, which are our present Grief and Scandal, may on the Regulation of our Trade, prove highly beneficial to us, since they will afford present room for a vast Increase of People, whether Forreign Planters, or others; in the *United Provinces*, or *France*, none such are to be found.

And lastly, *England* is far better situated for the *Fishing Trade*, and other Forreign Trade than either *France*, or the *United Provinces*; and its People are naturally far more *Adventurous* and *Valiant* than theirs, as Experience hath shewn, which makes no small odds upon National Contefts, between Nations emulous in Trade, when they fight upon equal Terms of Treasure, and Warlike Preparations: and there is no question but our *National Industry* in Trade, would be also more Vigorous and Successful, were it put into suitable Methods; but otherwise can no more Exert it self than a generous Courser in a Horle-Mill.

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From all which it must be evident, that were our Trade eas'd as in Neighbour Nations, *England* would have the Superiority, since the same Causes must produce greater Effects in *England*, being invigorated with these our National Advantages, which no other Nation doth or can enjoy.

The present Power of the French King would infallibly much Contribute to it, which being arrived to such a swelling and tremendous height, does not only intimidate all men of Trade and Wealth in *France*, especially Protestants; but all the adjacent Provinces and People on the Continent, who either already groan under the insupportable Oppressions and Infolencies of the French, or are under deep and Continual Apprehensions of being wasted by his numerous Troops, grown Proud and Wanton with Success, and ready to make irresistible descents upon any private Order; in which these his Neighbours can never think themselves secure, because of his late suddain Invasion of *Flanders*: and would therefore flye to our English World, as a blessed and safe Asylum, were it put into a posture of being so. Then if the suddain Populacy, Treasures, Trade, and strength of the small Dutch Provinces, were the Effects of the then Spanish Tyranny in the Low-Countreys, what might we not hope for from far greater Confluences of the richest and most

most Mercantile and Industrious Protestants, or such as would be so, even from *Holland* and *France*, as well as from many other parts of *Europe*; whose Stocks being transported by Bills of Exchange, and their Manufactures with their Persons, and this on a suddain, would give the odds of Strength and Treasure to the English, who no longer need to trust to the fallible Security of Leagues, which are so often obstructed and broken by the humour or perfidie of particular men, or frustrated by incapacity and accidents: And therefore this patching and piecing a Strength together by Leagues, is the dependance of small and weak Estates, such as those of *Italy* and *Germany*; where they are always tricking and betraying one another; yet at this time Leagues (though not to be wholly rested upon) may be of great, and good consequence to *England*.

Had the French Monarchy never over-awed the rest of *Europe*, as it now does, it must be evident, that if our Trade had been regulated and eas'd equally with the Dutch, all those Merchants and People which have settled in *Holland*, would have planted here, where besides the former advantages, the extent of our Territory, renders the Burthen of Taxes far easier on particular men than in *Holland*, where they are also at a much greater necessary charge for Garrisons on their Frontiers; nay the very

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Dutch would have forsaken those Provinces for *England*, or if any had remained, they would have been Carriers for the *English*, as they have been to the *French*, and will rather be so for the future, if our Shop were sufficiently furnished, because they will more willingly transfer the wealth of the World to a Country where they themselves may securely share in it, when they please, than to an *Arbitrary Power*, which may in a moment swallow it up, and oppress those that brought it to any the most barbarous degree; from all which, these things are most manifest: First, That nothing does or can so formidably threaten the Trade, and by Consequence the Monarchy of *France*, as the Modern Freedoms of the *English*, and some other Neighbouring Countreys. Secondly, That the *English* Freedoms are at this day so great an advantage to his most Sacred Majesty of *England*, that they are a Weapon left in his hands, with which, and a Concurrent Regulation of our Trade, he may with ease and assurance attain a Superiority over all the Monarchs and Powers of *Europe* put together; he will cut the Grass under their Feet, and draw away their Treasures and People, notwithstanding all the Policies can be used; no mere Prohibition can stop those whose Interests, quiet, and safety, shall oblige them to depart: In which, besides a sufficient Guard at Sea, (to

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See Sir *rr. Temple*
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in those Methods which may be most for the Publick Advantage, and this upon the *mighty Basis* of our present form of Government, and under our present most gracious Prince, whose Glories I hope to see expanded by an exuberant increase of National Treasures, People, and Royal Revenues, and to such a degree, as that the days of our *Queen Elizabeth* shall appear but a faint Type, or dawning of the greater Lustre and Happiness of His now Majesty's Reign: This is what I wish for, and have to my utmost endeavoured, and therein the real Advantage of all Ranks of Men in the Nation; If then these Excellent Ends appear obstructed by a sort of antient or Innovated Laws or Usages, who can speak of them, without much Remorse? In which, I hope, I am Excusable. These are the *Spells* by which our innocent People are inevitably lead into Courses destructive to the Publick.

How can our Merchants or Shop-keepers now avoid Trading in Foreign Consumptive Goods? Have they any sufficient Stores of Home-Manufactures? Can our Merchants Trade from Port to Port as the *Dutch* and others do? or must Men that are bred up to these Gentile professions, that are Men of *Family, Industry, and Fortune* sling up, live lazily, or poorly? Who doth not know how many generous and intelligent Men, are to be found

found amongst our *Merchants* and *Shop-keepers* of all sorts? Such as bear a true affection to their Country, and are an honour to the Nation, and such as wish for a Regulation of our Trade, and would be ready and capable to give all farther assistances, were they called to it? This I wish to see, being not so conceited, as to think I have said all that is material on this Subject; but on the contrary apprehend, That there are very few Paragraphs of what I have written, but may admit of farther Informations: In the mean time, from what hath been already said, it must be apparent to these and others, That as an open and free Trade would be far more profitable to the generality of *Merchants*, so would it be far more honourable to all; That the Consequential Increase of People and Wealth, would better support our great Increase of *Shop-keepers, Lawyers, Solicitors, Pen-men, &c.* (of which the present Numbers would then hardly be sufficient) That the benefits of our *Clergy* must receive an inevitable Improvement by it. And that our great and famous City of *London* (which is the Seat Royal, where our National Courts of Justice are, which is contiguous to our most secure Harbour for Ships, which hath the sweetest and most Commodious situation of any City in *Europe*, and is so vastly peopled already) must by these advantages,

tages, for ever, have the greatest resort and Trade of the Nation, (even under the utmost Improvements of our Trade) which must then be incomparably more than now: Besides, the vast advantage our *Gentry* would infallibly reap by the continual Rising of their Rents, even such of these as desire more business, or gain, will then have other and farther daily opportunities, by putting Stocks into Manufactures, or Foreign Trade, and projecting and soliciting the Improvement of either, or both. In *Florence*, the very *Nobility* and great *Duke* himself are *Traders*; hence might our Members of Parliament be continually prepared to make the most suitable Laws for the facilitating of Trade.

Lastly, Nothing can so effectually and certainly secure the peace of the Nation, as the Regulating of our Trade, since it will set all Mens heads and hands at work in all manner of Innocent and Profitable Employments, and introduce a general satisfaction and Harmony.

Then, and never 'till then, shall we make up that invincible *Phalanx*, which must not only be terrible to all Foreign Nations, but to all Enemies of the Government at Home, when they find it supported by the solid Pillars of Trade and Treasure, and a Consequential swelling Populacy and Navigation; which will

will deter Men of sense from Treasonable Machinations, and of Fools there needs no fear: Whereas the defect of these Supports must continually administer temptation to all such as by reason of their particular circumstances, can hope for any greater advantage or security, by the general ruin. The Body Politick being in this like the Natural, more subject to new Distempers when it is infirm before, but when stanch in every part easily bears off the Corruption or Acidity of any malevolent humours,

The Trade of the World hath long courted *England*, but never with so much importunity, or with so much advantage as now: This great Lady affecting Freedom and Security, hath no Inclination to continue under the Arbitrary Power of the *French*, nor the Uncertain fate of the *Dutch*; with these she hath resided only as a *Sojourner*, but is ready to espouse our Interest and Nation, and with her self to bestow upon us the Treasures of the World; but if we still continue inexorable and stubborn, things are grown to such a Crisis, That we may have reason to fear this is the last time of her asking, and that she may suddenly turn this Kindness into such a Fury as we shall not be able to withstand.

Shall we then embrace so advantageous Overtures, or, shall we still proceed in our present

present Methods? I have heard it was a hard matter to reclaim the *Irish* from drawing with their *Horses Tails*; shall the *Irish* now beat us out of our Trade? Shall we continue rolling in Foreign Silks and Linnens? or be still flogging in Foreign Wines, whilst they pick our pockets? Shall we be Curious in Trifles, sneaking after our private interests? or like the blind *Sodomites* groping after our filthy Pleasures, whilst the Wrathful Angels of God

See *Josephus* of the
Siege and Destruction
of *Jerusalem*.

stand at our elbows? Shall we like the Reprobated *Jews* be under continual Democations within, whilst our Enc-

mies are at the Gates? Shall those of the *High City*, those of the *Low City*, and those in the *Temple* be picking out one anothers Eyes to facilitate the Aggressions of more powerful Foreigners? or shall we be hunting or grasping after false Shadows, and Imaginary Forms and Ideas, and neglect that most valuable substance which we have already in our Mouths, and which would turn into the most solid Nutrient, would we take the pains to chew it?

Which leads me to say, There is yet a farther Requisite to our happy procedure in the Whole, of greater importance than any other; *viz.* a general Humiliation of our selves towards *God*, accompanied with an abhorrence of our past Intemperances, Corrupt Passions,

Pride,

Pride, Avarice, Lusts, Prophaneness, mutual Oppressions, Perfidies, and other Impieties, with such a Christian Meekness, Charity, Purity, Truth, Holy Zeal and Resolution as may render us Capable of his Mercy and Protection; perhaps one *false step* at this time, may be more Irreparable than ever; 'tis certain we shall never be able to make a *true one* whilst we are under the displeasure of the Almighty.

It is as undeniable, that the Laws which obstruct our Trade, cannot be *Repealed*, or new ones requisite for its *Improvement* or *Security* be made, otherwise than by a *Parliament*: Whether therefore, upon this and other important Considerations, the *Convening* and *Holding* of a Parliament be not, under *God* (who does not work by *Miracle*;) a necessary means to prevent the Ruine of this Nation, and how Long it may now with any security be deferred, is that, which I most humbly submit to the Determination of Authority.

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ERRATA.

The Copy by which the Print has been examined being imperfect, 'tis doubted all the Errata's are not observed, but these following have occur'd, viz.

P Ag. 3. line 17. for hires read hives. p. 5. l. 7. r. notions. same p. l. 11. f. of Improvements. r. and. p. 10. l. 3. r. populacy. p. 20. l. 17. r. commodities p. 23. l. 18. r. principles. p. 25. l. 26. r. commodity. p. 25. l. f. with r. which. p. 27. l. 7. r. manufactures. p. 31. l. 25. f. 25000. r. 25000. p. 42. l. 8. r. re-export. p. 44. l. 2. after go add or 100. p. 52. after for add same. p. 53. f. wars. r. wares. p. 57. l. 4. after high add out. l. 5. after have, add near. p. 59. l. 2. af. make add a. p. 59. l. 13. f. Sails r. Sailors. p. 71. l. 8. af. since

since *add* of *l. 9. bef.* are *ad* they *p. 72. l. 2.* such as *leave out* as.
Note, The next page is false numbered, viz. 129, and so forwards
 till page 160: In which are these Errata's viz.
p. 131. l. 19. r. erection *p. 136. l. 14. f.* custom *r.* constitution *p. 138. l. 12.*
f. these *r.* the *p. 140. l. 5.* it their, *leave out* it. *p. 141. l. 26. f.* exempted
r. exerted *p. 144. l. 16. r.* notoriety the same *p. l. 28. f.* highly *r.* highlyly.
p. 149. l. 4. f. rent *r.* vent *p. 150. l. 4. r.* manufacturers. the same *p. l. 19. f.*
prize r. price *p. 151. l. 3. f.* being *r.* bring, the same *p. l. 24. r.* in confide-
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he was, he to be omitted. in the same marg. *f. 250000 r. 150000 p. 156.*
l. 18. r. manufacturer. *Note*, in Sect. 7. at *p. 160.* there follows *p. 97.*
 and so forwards, wherein are these Errata's. *p. 97. l. 25. af.* that *r.*
 most *p. 101. l. 6. f.* and Virgil *r.* or *p. 107. l. 9. r.* propose *p. 109. omit* and.
p. 113. l. 8. r. difference. *p. 115. f. a. r.* the *p. 116. l. 1. r.* manufacturers
 same *p. l. 13. f.* this *r.* there. same *p. l. 16. af.* and *r.* are. *p. 125. l. 1. leave*
out partly *p. 126. r.* those *p. 130. l. 22. f.* a fair *r.* an *p. 132. l. 19. f.* 2000 *l.*
r. 20000 *p. 154. l. 13. r.* alteration. same *p. l. 24. & 25. r.* affected *p. 155.*
l. 15. r. exported *p. 164. l. 23. f.* art *r.* aft *p. 186. l. 1. f.* here *r.* have *p. 188.*
l. 20. f. God *r.* Gold *p. 202. l. 2. to three add* near. *p. 211. f.* moderately
r. immoderately. *p. 218. an addend.* In the Margent omitted, viz.
 To these and all the rest, add what losses have accrew'd by in-
 closing our *African Trade* to a Company and Joynt-stock, and
 by the Act of 15 Car. 2. 7. Licencing the *East-India Company*, and
 all others, to Export Treasure and such other late losses, as being
 mentioned in the 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th. or 8th. Sections, have been
 omitted in this and the last Section.
p. 220. l. 20. f. drive *r.* drove *p. 221. l. 14. af.* more then *add* their then
 value. *p. 223. l. 15. for* yield *r.* of. *p. 225. and the leave out* and. *l. 11. of*
 more. *leave out* of *p. 230. l. 25. r.* greater. *p. 235. f.* impossible, *r.* possible.
p. 238. f. of felters *r.* and. *p. 242. l. 26. f.* their *r.* the. *p. 252. l. 28. f.* 100 *r.*
 600 *p. 253. l. 28. r.* King's *p. 256. l. 10. abundant* of, *leave out* of *l. 24. f.*
 parts *r.* Ports *p. 263. l. 6. f.* gain, *add* by. *p. 265. l. 21. f.* spake, *r.* speak.
p. 267. l. 3. f. repeated *r.* repeated *l. 9. af.* and *add* that *l. 21. an addend.*
 in the margent omitted, viz. The *Gnosts* of late appear unwilling.
p. 269. l. 39. f. our *r.* their *p. 274. l. 1. f.* can *r.* could. *p. 296. af.* cutting *r.*
 new *p. 299. l. 22. r.* benefices *p. 300. f.* Phalanax *r.* Phalanx *p. 301. f.* ma-
 levolent, *read* malignant.